

UFO

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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT [University of Arizona], Tucson, AZ - Feb. 24, 2004

Dr. Lynne Kitei, describes a UFO experience she had in 1997 to a gallery of nearly 70 people at DuVal Auditorium in UMC last night. Kitei has released a book entitled "The Phoenix Lights," in which she investigates the possibility of intelligent extraterrestrial life.



Aliens exist, say researchers, abducted audience members

By Sarah Stanton
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Alien abductees and university professors who specialize in extraterrestrial research gathered last night at University Medical Center to share their out-of-this-world experiences.

UA professor Gary Schwartz emceed a free lecture titled "Evidence for Extraterrestrial Life?"

More than 50 people attended the event, which featured two documentaries and a question-and-answer session with two doctors who believe that extraterrestrial life exists in some form.

Schwartz, the director of the UA's Human Energy Systems Lab, said, "Our lab works in controversial areas, but the topic tonight is extremely

controversial."

Dr. Lynne Kitei, a cardiologist from Phoenix, recounted her numerous UFO sightings and showed the audience a documentary featuring her home video of the phenomena, titled "The Phoenix Lights."

Kitei had her first UFO sighting in 1995. She was taking a bath when her husband started screaming to her from their bedroom to come see the unusual lights that were "hovering" outside the window.

Kitei described the lights as "three amber orbs, each about 3 to 6 feet in diameter, about 50 to 75 feet above us, hovering in a triangular formation."

She took video and still photos of the lights as they "dimmed away."

Two years later, on March 13,

1997, Kitei said a mass UFO sighting occurred in Phoenix and throughout Arizona. Up to 10,000 people saw the orbs of light that Kitei described as they waited to see the Hale-Bopp comet.

Panic ensued as people called the police departments and fire departments. No one knew what caused the unusual lights that some described as being attached to some sort of ship that was said to be more than a mile long, she said.

Kitei called Luke Air Force base and could not obtain any information. She contacted the Phoenix Sky Harbor airport, where one air traffic controller and one commercial pilot reported seeing the lights. Nothing showed up on the radar.

The mystery went unsolved

POST, Denver, CO - March 22, 2004 CR: P. Noonan

Colo. researcher felt truth out there in hunt for UFOs

By Brittany Anas
Special to The Denver Post

From the beginning, Roy P. Craig was in a different world.

Craig left the family dairy farm on the Florida Mesa south of Durango as a young man to study physical science. Later, he became part of the country's largest flying-saucer study.

The lover of unidentified flying objects and a leading researcher into their existence died Thursday at his La Boca Ranch, south of Ignacio, after struggling with cancer. Craig was 79.

"He had a belief that there definitely had to be other life in the universe," said Philip Craig, his nephew. "He believed there had to be because of the size and vastness of the universe. But he just couldn't verify the evidence that UFOs had visited here."

As a science professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Roy Craig was selected to serve as the chief field investigator of The Colorado Project, a federally funded scientific investigation into the existence of unidentified flying objects.

The investigation in the late 1960s was led by physicist Edward Condon, and the results of its findings later became known as the Condon Report.

A team of more than 30 investigators, including university professors, psychologists and scientists from private laboratories, looked into thousands of UFO reports and interviewed witnesses.

Although none of the pieces of evidence or personal accounts that the team collected were backed scientifically, Craig kept his mind open, relatives said.

"As a scientist, he left it open to the minds of other people to determine their existence," said Gayle Voss Button, a niece of Roy Craig.

Following his work on the Condon project, Craig wrote a book about his role in the investigation, "UFOs: An Insider's View of the Official Quest for Evidence."

Voss Button said that her uncle also wrote and recorded a playful, snappy jingle about UFOs that he liked to perform for "anybody that would listen."

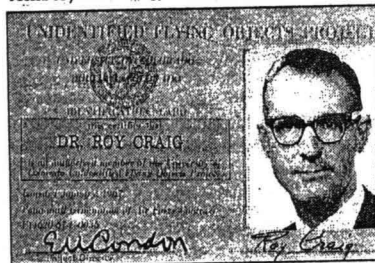
"The UFO," as it was titled, featured whooshes and ping sounds in the background, she said.

Voss Button said that a friend of her uncle would often sing the ditty while Craig played the dulcimer in the background.

A sample of the song's verse includes:

"A sailing o'er Kentucky/ I pause and spurt along/ I'm filled with gay malarkey/ As I sing the UFO song./ Beep beep beep beep beep (many more beeps follow)."

Craig donated boxes of field evidence and his findings to Texas A&M University in September, according to The Associated Press.



Special to The Denver Post

Roy Craig's identification card from his work with the UFO investigation team led by physicist Edward Condon.

At the time, he told the Durango Herald that reports of UFOs have changed popular culture. "It's got people out of the rut of thinking the whole universe was created for man," Craig said.

Philip Craig described his uncle as worldly and remembers looking forward to his visits.

"He was the only one that left the dairy farm," Philip Craig said. "He would always bring back science projects for us to do and take us on recreational trips. He showed us how to enjoy life."

until 2000, when the National Guard staged an air show to prove to the public that an Air Force maneuver was behind the mysterious "Phoenix lights." They flew planes with flares attached to them over the city to "re-enact" the event.

But the people who had witnessed the real Phoenix lights, including Kitei, were still skeptical.

Kitei contacted Schwartz, who was reluctant to take on the subject.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't really want to see her," he said.

But Schwartz found Kitei's evidence very convincing and said that she was "alarmingly sane."

"I could not give up my intellectual integrity," he said.

Schwartz went on to write the foreword to Kitei's book.

Kitei also told the audience that she had a near-death experience as a child, has also had out-of-body experiences and believes she is telepathic.

The evening got more out-of-this-world as Dr. John Mack, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard University, took the stage with his documentary titled "Touched," which chronicles his research on alien abductions.

Mack, who conducted extensive clinical analysis of supposed abductees, said he did not find any psychological disturbances that could account for their behavior.

One man said he was abducted by aliens and taken into their spacecraft, where sperm

samples were taken, and he was forced to mate with an alien female.

A woman claimed to have mothered hybrid alien-human children.

Skepticism of these phenomena is widespread. Harvard conducted a 14-month investigation into Mack's research, concerned that he was connecting Harvard with a subject controversial, according to Mack's documentary.

But they did not take any action against Mack and ultimately allowed him to continue his research.

There are also many people who believe these phenomena are real. When Kitei asked how many people in the audience were "believers," almost all of the people raised their hands.

One woman in the audience claimed to be an alien abductee herself.

"I just wanted to say that I am an abductee, and the experience has always been positive and exciting for me," she said.

Kitei said it is probable that intelligent extraterrestrial life exists.

"Our solar system is relatively young. There may be beings that are billions of years more advanced than we are. We may be looking for FM on the AM dial," she said.

Schwartz said we as a culture need to stop denying reliable data on controversial subjects.

"Shakespeare said, 'To be or not to be; that is the question.' But for us, it's, 'To see or not to see; that is the question,' he said.

I just wanted to say that I am an abductee, and the experience has always been positive and exciting for me.

— self-proclaimed alien abductee who attended last night's lecture

When Roy Craig returned to the Durango area from Boulder, he moved to a 186-acre ranch that had a river running through it and was a former Indian trading post.

Voss Button said that her uncle loved llamas and left behind more than 60 on his ranch. She said he also had two peacocks that he enjoyed.

Roy Craig earned a doctorate in physical chemistry from Iowa State University and later taught physical science at CU-Boulder. He also worked for the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant northwest of Denver.

There will be a memorial service April 25 at La Boca Ranch.

Ike and the Alien Ambassadors

The Whole Tooth About the President's Extraterrestrial Encounter

By PETER CARLSON
Washington Post Staff Writer

Fifty years ago tomorrow—on Feb. 20, 1954—President Dwight Eisenhower interrupted his vacation in Palm Springs, Calif., to make a secret nocturnal trip to a nearby Air Force base to meet two extraterrestrial aliens.

Or maybe not. Maybe Ike just went to the dentist. There's some dispute about this.

The Ike-met-with-ETs theory is

advanced by Michael Salla, a former American University professor who now runs the Peace Ambassador Program at AU's Center for Global Peace.

The Ike-went-to-the-dentist theory is advanced by the folks at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kan. And by James M. Mixson, a dentist, professor of dentistry and historian of presidential dental work.

Just to make things more intriguing: On the night in question, the Associated Press reported this:

"Pres. Eisenhower died tonight of a heart attack in Palm Springs."

Two minutes later, the AP retracted that bulletin and reported that Ike was still alive.

Indeed, Ike *was* alive. And he continued living until 1969. But in the decades since his death, his activities on the night of Feb. 20, 1954, have become fodder for strange theories about alien beings.

Some facts are beyond dispute:



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY THE WASHINGTON POST

Eisenhower was on a golf vacation in Palm Springs on Feb. 20, 1954. After dinner that night, he made an unscheduled departure from the Smoking Tree Ranch, where he was staying. The next morning, he attended a church service in Los Angeles. Also that morning, his spokesman announced to the press that Ike had visited a dentist the previous night because he'd chipped a tooth while eating a chicken wing at dinner.

Salla, who has a PhD in government from the University of Queensland in his native Australia, doesn't believe it. He figures the dentist trip is just a cover story. He believes Ike went to Edwards Air Force Base, where he met with two ETs with white hair, pale blue eyes and colorless lips.

These aliens—nicknamed "Nordics" in UFO circles because they resemble Scandinavian humans—traveled to Edwards from another solar system in a flying saucer and, Salla says, they spoke to Eisenhower.

"There was telepathic communication," says Salla, 45, as he sits in his suburban Falls Church living room. "It's as though you're hearing a person but they're not speaking."

The "Nordics" offered to share their superior technology and their spiritual wisdom with Ike if he would agree to eliminate America's nuclear weapons.

"They were afraid we might blow up some of our nuclear technology," Salla says, "and apparently that does something to time and space and it impacts on extraterrestrial races on other planets."

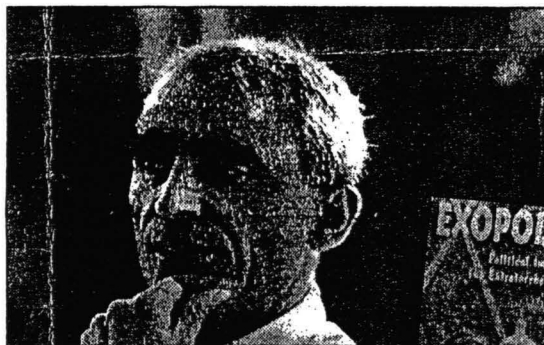
Ike declined the ETs' offer, Salla says, because he did not want to give up the nukes.

Sometime later in 1954, Ike reached a deal with another race of extraterrestrials, known as the "Greys"—allowing them to capture earthling cattle and humans for medical experiments, provided that they returned the humans safely home. Since then, Salla says, the "Greys" have kidnapped "millions" of humans.

Salla, author of "The Hero's Journey Toward a Second American Century," published his ET theories in his new book, "Exopolitics: Political Implications of the Extraterrestrial Presence" and in an article on his "Exopolitics" Web site (www.exopolitics.org).

For much of the '90s, Salla studied conflict resolution and tried unsuccessfully to apply that knowledge to prevent war in East Timor and the Balkans, he says. Frustrated, he began looking for an extraterrestrial connection to human misery and, he says, he found evidence of ET visitations—including the Ike encounter—on the Internet.

"There's a lot of stuff on the Internet," he says,



PHOTOS BY JAHU CHIKWENDU—THE WASHINGTON POST

Michael Salla's new book advances his theory that, in 1954, President Eisenhower met secretly with extraterrestrial ambassadors.

"and I just went around and pieced it together."

Meanwhile, he taught at the School of International Service at American University. In 2003 he founded the university's Peace Ambassador Program, described on the AU Web site as a "summer program that combines study, meditative practices, and prayer ceremonies at selected Washington DC sites aimed at promoting individual self-empowerment and Divine Governance in Washington DC."

Salla stresses that his ET research is not connected with his work at AU's Center for Global Peace. The folks at the Center for Global Peace are also quite eager to stress that fact.

"The research that Michael Salla is doing is not research that he is conducting on behalf of the center or in collaboration with the center," says Betty Sitka, associate director of the Center for Global Peace. "This is his own personal research."

Meanwhile, the question remains: Did Ike really meet with ETs 50 years ago?

"Not to our knowledge," says Jim Leyerzapf, an archivist at the Eisenhower Library. "There's nothing in the archives that indicates that."

Then Leyerzapf bursts out laughing.

He has heard this theory before. "We've had so many requests on that subject that we have a person who specializes in this."

That person is archivist Herb Pankratz.

"He specialized in transportation," Leyerzapf says, "and we decided to add UFOs to that. He does trains, planes, automobiles—and flying saucers."

The library fielded dozens of questions about the alleged Ike-ET meeting in the late '80s and early '90s, when several UFO books advanced the theory, Pankratz says.

"It's interesting how these stories have changed," Pankratz noted in an e-mail. "Initially,

the accounts claimed the President made a secret trip to Edwards Air Force Base to view the remains of aliens who had crashed at Roswell, N.M., in 1947. Later stories then claimed he had actually visited with live aliens."

Pankratz doesn't buy either theory. He believes the dentist story, and he cites James Mixson, the dental historian and professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry. Mixson's article "A History of Dwight D. Eisenhower's Oral Health"—published in the November 1995 issue of the Bulletin of the History of Dentistry—is the definitive work on Ike's teeth.

Citing the U.S. surgeon general's records on Ike's medical and dental history, opened to researchers in 1991, Mixson reported that on the fateful night of Feb. 20, 1954, Ike chipped the porcelain cap of his "upper left central incisor" and it was repaired by Dr. Francis A. Purcell.

Alas, Purcell is unavailable for comment. He died in 1974, according to Pankratz.

"The lack of a dental record from Purcell's office," Mixson wrote, "has helped fuel belief in this UFO encounter."

But, Mixson quickly added, "the President had well-documented difficulties with this crown."

Indeed, the crown, which was installed in July 1952, was chipped and repaired in December 1952, the February in question, and again in July 1954, when the president's dentist, Col. James M. Fairchild, replaced it with a "thin cast gold/platinum thimble crown."

That may be more than you wanted to know about Ike's dental work. If not, Mixson goes on at some length, quoting a long, lyrical passage written by Fairchild on this troublesome presidential incisor.

Meanwhile, there's another perplexing question: Why did the AP report that Ike died that night?

"Somebody was fooling around and it went out," Pankratz says. "It wasn't supposed to go out but it did."

Ike never made any public statement about meeting ETs, Pankratz says. But did he perhaps spill the beans to his family? Ike's son, John S.D. Eisenhower, is a retired Army brigadier general and author of several books on history, including "General Ike: A Personal Reminiscence."

Asked via e-mail if his father had ever mentioned meeting with aliens, Eisenhower responded with a short but emphatic reply:

"No."

He declined to comment further.

WALK ON BY
What if
extraterrestrial
beings regularly
visited our planet?
Would that
explain tales of
fairies and ghouls?



Alien Lovers

Documentary explores human side of meetings from beyond

By GRETCHEN GILES

Karin, an attractive woman in her late 20s with short-cropped hair and a quick smile, is fairly certain that her first experience with extraterrestrial beings came when she was just two and a half. Playing with a new gumball machine in a dry creek bed outside of her Florida home, Karin remembers a small being with large, black eyes coming out from behind a tree. He asked her to accompany him; she did. She remembers that they entered an "egg-shaped" vehicle.

The being introduced her to a boy slightly older than she and asked if she would share her gumball machine with him. She did. The next thing she knew, she was "mid-frame, running towards the house." She and her mother hunted all around the creek bed for that gumball machine. They never found it, though over 20 years later, Karin found the young boy whom she believes was in the egg-shaped vehicle with her, now a man living in his native Scotland.

As an adult, Karin has frequently been awakened by an intense feeling of electric current coursing through her slim frame. She's seen an eerie blue light, an unnatural screaming

hue, repeatedly illuminate her bedroom windows. She's been aroused from deep slumber only to find herself completely unable to move. She is certain that her ovaries have been pierced, eggs removed. She believes that she's met her half-alien children, small "young beings" who are also tinged an uncanny blue. She cries as she says this. She appears to be perfectly sane.

Karin is one of the estimated hundreds of thousands of people who claim to have experienced alien abduction. As featured in filmmaker Laurel Chiten's latest documentary, *Touched*, Karin is just one of a handful willing to tell her story. Startled by such remarkable tales, most of us tend to scoff at them. When a Harvard professor of psychiatry gravely researches them as being true, opinions sometimes change.

Dr. John E. Mack is one such psychiatrist. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of a biography on T. E. Lawrence, Mack has devoted the last decade to working with subjects who believe that they have been abducted, writing about them (resulting in at least two nonfiction works, *Abduction* and *Passport to the Cosmos*) and defending himself for his research against colleagues at Harvard, who launched a two-year investigation of his work before finally exonerating him as worthy of his tenure.

Mack invited Chiten, whose work he was familiar with from her earlier documentaries (*Twitch and Shout*, about Tourette's syndrome, and *The Jew in the Lotus*, an autobiographical study), to make a film about his patients and their experiences. She resisted until he dangled a free meal. Arriving for a dinner in honor of Mack's clients, many of whom spoke at eloquent length of their experiences, Chiten became struck by the simple force of each person's humanity. These weren't raving lunatics, but rather ordinary people whose lives had unwillingly, it seems, been irrevocably changed.

"I was abducted by John Mack," she laughs by cellphone, caught having a Saturday morning breakfast at a cafe near her Boston home. "I basically kicked and screamed and dragged my heels in. But there's something about John that's so completely endearing; he's so naïve. He does this work and publicizes it, and then doesn't understand what the big brouhaha is. He's actually quite fascinating to listen to."

Those interested can listen to Mack on Saturday, Feb. 21, when he and Chiten appear at the Sonoma Film Institute's screening of *Touched* (Chiten also appears on Sunday, Feb. 22).

Touched focuses primarily on Karin and another alleged abductee named Peter,

who believes that he was used as a sperm resource while in his 20s for alien half-breed production. Peter, a handsome man who trains as an acupuncturist during the course of the film, is married to the long-suffering Jamy, a therapist.

We hear tapes of Peter's regression therapy with Mack, in which he reports feeling that the alien with whom he believes he has repeatedly mated is his *real* wife, his real soul partner in life. For her part, Jamy tries to see Peter's experiences as authentic, as possibly springing from an episode of childhood abuse, or as a spiritual quest. She strives not to write her husband off 17 years off as a nut case, though the strain certainly shows.

Remaining skeptical, Chiten trained her lens on the human aspect of this underground drama. "I am someone who is completely outside the experience," she says. "Jamy is me; she's the audience. I think that the major thing that I wanted people to walk away from the film with is that it is purposefully ambivalent [about the subject of alien visitation], because I am. I'm agnostic about it. It's real; it's not real. I believe them; I don't believe them. You're never quite sure. But it's not really just about alien abduction per se; it's about the human drama, what happens when something comes into your life."

Given that both Karin and Peter are attractive, outgoing people, one begins to wonder if they've sought publicity in order to somehow enlarge themselves. Chiten disagrees. "A lot of people will think that these people are trying to get attention. Peter was very hesitant to be in the film. Having these experiences is traumatic enough, but how the media has treated him is much more traumatic. He's been so misinterpreted by the media so many times. My feeling is that he was being very courageous by coming forward. Most people are shy about it; they don't want people to know."

Perhaps most brilliantly, Chiten interviews thinkers outside of Mack's field, speaking to the Vatican's own demonologist and to a myth and folklore expert whose specific discipline is daimonology. Speaking in Italian through an interpreter, the Vatican priest reveals that the Catholic Church is heartily ready to embrace the idea of alien visitation. Explaining that the fallible art of human narrative forms the basis of our shared history and certainly of the Christ tale itself, the elderly priest leans forward in his chair and says, "Who are we to believe that we are the only life in the universe? It's stupid," his voice trailing the translator: "stupid."

As Mack patiently explains earlier in *Touched*, Westerners have the only culture in the world that doesn't readily accept the duality of an alternative existence to the human one. "The alien-encounter experience seems almost like an outreach program from the cosmos to the spiritually impaired," he marvels.

Ghosts, goblins, fairies; ghouls, gargoyles, brownies; little people, giants, elves—what if, the daimonologist posits, the parallel world of traditional Western legend in fact painted a rich and vibrant ancient history of interaction between ourselves and beings from beyond?

"As much as I love to think that there are such things as angels and gods, I don't want to think that there's something in this world that can hurt people," Chiten says. "It makes me feel out of control. But in the four to five years I've been working with this subject matter, no one has been made any sense to me—except the daimonologist."

"There might be 100 people who have a psychological explanation; there might be 12 people who have a neurological explanation; there might be hundreds of people who have sleep paralysis—but that still," she says, her voice rising slightly, "doesn't explain all the rest of the people who have experienced this."



ALIENATED

Harvard professor of psychiatry Dr. John E. Mack endured a two-year faculty investigation of his research on alleged visitations by aliens. He was subsequently cleared by the university.

"Touched" screens at the Sonoma Film Institute on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 7pm at Darwin Hall, Room 108. Both Laurel Chiten and Dr. John Mack will be in attendance. A second screening is offered Sunday, Feb. 22, at 4pm in Warren Auditorium, Ives Hall, with filmmaker Chiten in attendance. SFI, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Robnert Park. \$3-\$4.50. 707.664.2606.

Roswell outer limits for UFO fans

Alien lore beams into fabric of tourism in New Mexico town

BY JOHN BORDSEN
Travel Editor

Ruth Ann Speth was born in Roswell, N.M., and has lived most of her 61 years there. Her family owns and operates Cobean Stationery. Roswell, of course, is where space aliens allegedly crashed in 1947 and then were spirited away by the government. The town and that incident have turned up in countless sci-fi movies and TV shows since.

Q. The big thing in Roswell is the annual UFO event, right?

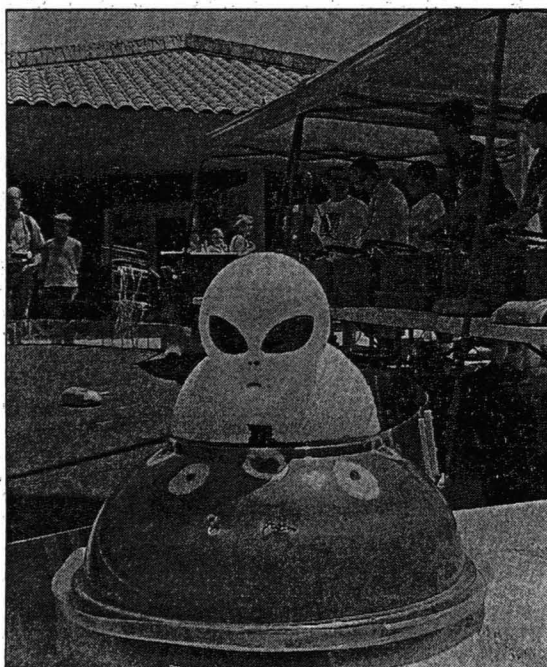
Yes. The UFO Festival is held around the Fourth of July, usually on a weekend. They have a parade where people dress as aliens or anything else having to do with outer space or the American space program or whatever. They have competitions for best costumes. And there's kind of a street fair with booths that sell T-shirts and other things having to do with aliens and all that.

Q. How big is the UFO connection for tourism?

Right now, extremely. It has brought in so many people. Before then, we didn't get a lot of visitors. We have a military academy that brings a lot of people. And we have such good weather that it is a popular place for retirees.

Q. For weather, what's the best time to go to Roswell?

It's not that bad in winter - in the 60s and 70s and not much snow. We get snow maybe once or twice a year. Summer is warm



G. NOEL GROSS - DALLAS MORNING NEWS PHOTO

Youngsters steer remote-control ships around an interstellar circuit made of painted plywood in Roswell, N.M.

and dry. It can get up to 110 but that's not normal; usually, it's between 95 and 100.

We're 200 miles from Albuquerque, Santa Fe... anything. We're on the way to places like Carlsbad Caverns or Rudoso, and that's about it.

Before the festival, even locals weren't that involved in the UFO thing. It was so many years ago. We kind of forgot about it until recently.

Q. And now you have places selling Outer Space Burgers?

Several places in town have changed their names. There's a restaurant called Crash Site. Alien Zone is a tourist-type curio and

what-not shop. Things like that.

Q. Wasn't there a military base nearby that figured into the whole space aliens thing? weren't there restricted areas where the public couldn't go?

There was a base in the 1940s. It closed down about 25 or 30 years ago.

There's no area now where you can't go. Throughout the year - especially during the UFO festival - you can take tours out to the crash site.

Q. The site of the alleged crash - have you been there? What

does it look like?

No, I haven't been there. They say it's just open prairie. I don't know if you can see supposed (UFO) skid marks. We just take tourists out there, show them the lay of the land. Tell the story.

Q. Some parts of America seem prone to UFO reports. Is Roswell like that?

We have people who come during the festival period and set up near the airbase with little vans and that stuff for sitting at night. And they're saying they see things.

Q. What's the local reaction?

Most of us would have to see it to believe it. My mom knew almost all the people who were involved in this in the '40s. And like she says, they were truthful people. That's not saying she believes or doesn't believe, but she knows people involved then wouldn't lie.

Q. What's the consensus of those who were involved?

Most of them are dead. Some are still around - like the mortician called to the airbase to bring caskets for the little people. He's still saying much of it was true. Now they're trying to debunk him. It goes back and forth.

But all those who are alive and are still around here say there was definitely "something" there. The government is definitely trying to explain the weird things away.

Book on UFOs shows misplaced energy

Have you ever seen a flying saucer? If the answer is no, you're not exactly in a minority, but there are more than a few of your neighbors who will swear they have.

Roy Timm of Pendleton wrote a book called "Saucers, ETs, Abductions and More" back in 2001, and today is promoting his book, his Web site and his beliefs with evangelistic zeal. He was in the new publisher's face before the new publisher even knew where all the bathrooms were.

He wanted to be sure the new publisher knew about his group that meets monthly at a local restaurant and he wanted the new publisher to attend one of those meetings. Which the new publisher did, but on the second Wednesday in February, the group was a no-show.

Timm offers as proof of his beliefs unbearable tape recordings of a woman he claims is from another planet and another, unidentified man, in a three-way, rambling conversation without point, focus or, seemingly, an end. You would think people from another galaxy would be more interesting.

One classic section of the tape: The woman, who used to live in Ohio, complains that she has been diagnosed as a schizophrenic so nobody believes her stories of another world. She points out that her home world is in conflict, and it has spilled over to Earth. She tells us that a race of lizard-like beings, reptoids, has vowed that if the leaders of Earth finally acknowledge the presence of her and her scaly-skinned adversaries, the lizards will go back to her home planet, kill everyone there, then come back to Earth and kill everyone here.

Timm can be heard then saying, with devotion, that we must simply persevere until our political leaders acknowledge the presence of UFOs, extraterrestrial beings and Big Foot. Hmmm. Is anybody listening?

As additional proof, Timm submits taped segments of a call-in radio talk show devoted



Dave Balcom

Publisher

But wouldn't it be great to know that humans are not alone in the universe? But to buy into Timm's game, you have to believe that thousands of government workers in hundreds of governments on the globe have agreed to maintain universal denial of what would be the greatest story since Jesus Christ walked among us.

to stories of UFOs, cattle mutilations and abductions.

It would be too simple to write all this off to an overzealous imagination.

When you go to the Web site you find the photos are all too blurry or weak to be definitive, but the pitch to buy Timm's book is very clear. But it would be too easy to write this all off as a scam, too.

So what is it?

One possible opinion is that it represents misplaced energy.

Timm's book is a fun read. Not the part about alien abductions, which, by the way, the book does not document. Instead it

merely speculates as to why some people wandering around the mountains in the middle of a Saturday night might lose track of time. There are some of us who have wandered around in the woods on a Saturday night with another, just as plausible explanation, but, hey, it's Timm's book.

What's really fun in the book, however, is the little vignettes of life in Eastern Oregon as seen through the uneducated but intelligent eye of an untrained but dedicated journal writer.

Mr. Timm - which is how he quotes himself when he can't find someone else to say what he feels needs saying in the book - goes off on the neatest tangents in attempting to build up the credibility of his sources who, he claims, are telling of their UFO experiences for the very first time.

But the insights he offers into the careers and lives of working people, farmers and lumbermen, American Indians and others is just simply good stuff.

If he had dedicated himself to painting those word pictures of what he knows and clearly understands instead of this other stuff, we might be celebrating his work.

If your mind is open at all, you have to at least hope there is sentient life on other planets. Because they live in another country, so to speak, they might not necessarily be technologically advanced compared to us. But wouldn't it be great to know that humans are not alone in the universe?

But to buy into Timm's game, you have to believe that thousands of government workers in hundreds of governments on the globe have agreed to maintain universal denial of what would be the greatest story since Jesus Christ walked among us.

Nope, can't go there, Mr. Timm. People talk. They always do. If you need proof, look at your own work. If you give them an audience, people will actually tell you they saw a flying saucer.

16TH ANNUAL UFO CONFERENCE

They're certain that we're not alone

Story and photos
by Kathryn Lucariello
CCN staff writer

Why do they keep coming back year after year to the UFO Conference held in Eureka Springs?

Because the subject matter is so compelling, and there are always updates of what's happened during the year since the last one.

From April 9-11, the 16th Annual Ozark UFO Conference will get under way.

The conference will be held at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks Conference Center on Highway 62 West, across from Eureka Springs High School.

Lucius Farish, conference organizer, says there is an exciting lineup this year - many returning old favorites such as Linda Moulton Howe of Art Bell radio show fame, but a few folks who haven't appeared in recent years or who are here for the first time.

Nine speakers are scheduled to take the podium during the conference:

Timothy Good - internationally known researcher and author of several books on UFOs, including his latest, *Unearthly Disclosure*.

Linda Moulton Howe - author of *Mysterious Lights and Crop Circles* and award-winning documentary and radio science producer.

Wendelle Stevens - retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, presenting cases of claimed contact with extraterrestrial beings in various countries.

Dr. David Rudiak - discussing his analysis of UFO film footage, as well as an update on the famous Roswell, NM

crash of 1947.

Nancy Talbott - researcher whose specialty is collection and interpretation of evidence from crop circles, animal mutilations and UFO landing sites.

Grant Cameron - a Canadian researcher with a detailed report on an area known as "the UFO capital of the world."

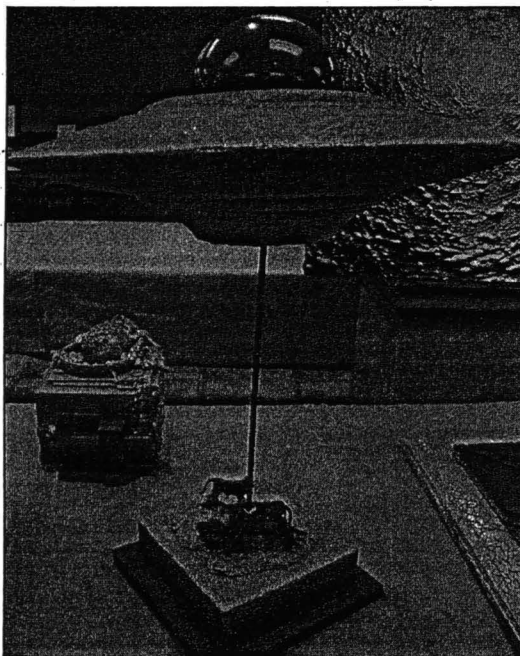
Three other featured speakers will provide a special treat for conference-goers:

Beverly Trout - a researcher from Iowa who will present a case for interactions with reptilian beings of apparent extraterrestrial origin. Trout is the MUFON director for Iowa.

Ted Phillips - will tell of his experiences in Slovakia, finding a cave which is alleged to contain an ancient artifact of high technical sophistication, suggesting evidence of a former highly advanced civilization. Phillips has catalogued over 5,000 pieces of evidence of UFO landings and has a large quantity of information on the Joplin, Mo. "spook light."

Don Ledger - a Canadian researcher who has information on a UFO seen and tracked off the coast of Nova Scotia in 1972.

"An object was seen to enter the water off Shag Harbor and went below the surface," Farish said. "It was tracked for several days by the Canadian Air



A sculpture of a cattle mutilation by UFO artist Jason Startup from Kansas City, Mo. Startup has brought his work to this conference twice. He may be there again this year, Farish said, but there are other artists bringing work as well. The vendors' area is a popular hangout for conference-goers between presentations.

Command. Don's book, *Dark Object*, is about this event."

The Ozark UFO conference was started in 1989, Farish said. It has always been held in Eureka Springs by popular

demand. Anywhere from 350 to 450 people attend, from all over the U.S., Canada and abroad.

Interestingly, although Farish has an avid interest in the subject of UFOs, he says he is not a "contactee" and has had no spectacular sightings.

"I have seen things I can't identify," he says. "Lights and objects at a distance."

Along with speakers, the conference features vendors with ET- and UFO-related merchandise from cards and books to art and t-shirts.

The conference schedule is set up so that people can attend all or part of it. Farish said that because many people want to attend only one day, he schedules most of the speakers on Saturday.

Tickets are \$35 in advance through April 2 and \$40 at the door for all sessions. Reduced fees are available for partial attendance.

For more information on the conference, to reserve rooms or to reserve tickets, call Farish at (501) 354-

2558, email him at ozarkufo@webtv.net, visit the website at www.ozarkufo.iwarp.com or write to Ozark UFO Conference, #2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville, AR 72127.

REGISTER, Whitewater, WI - Nov. 20, 2003 CR: R. Heiden

Police call tales of UFO sightings a hoax

By Kim McDarison
REGISTER EDITOR

What began for Whitewater Police Chief Jim Coan as a routine stop at the Westsider for a newspaper Nov. 7 turned into an extraordinary event when the person working behind the counter casually asked Coan if the police had figured out what the UFO was.

That question was prompted by a flyer that recently circulated around town about a mysterious sighting by several UW-Whitewater students and two members of faculty who were said to have seen some lights behind the football stadium between 9:30 and 9:50 p.m. on Oct. 30.

It could be a hoax or maybe a sighting of a solar flare, but one thing it probably is not, said Coan, is a UFO.

The flyer, which a Westsider employee said was delivered by an adult and not a person of traditional college age, was printed on paper without letterhead and claimed that four groups had reported seeing an object which they identified as a mysterious green and blue pulsating light coming from the nature trails.

The flyer stated that some of the witnesses investigated the scene and claimed that as they approached, a bright circular object

rose above the forest and vanished into the sky.

The unknown authors of the statement asked that anyone with information about the sightings contact the Whitewater Police Department.

Coan explained that the Whitewater Police Department was not involved in the crafting of the statement, its release, nor had their dispatcher received any calls on that night or any other about paranormal activity taking place in the skies above Whitewater.

He suggested that because the alleged sightings were close to Halloween, there was a large po-

tential that the whole thing was some sort of hoax.

"If there is any validity at all it could have to do with a solar flare that was reported in the news lately," said Coan.

He was referring to a solar storm that was reported in USA Today on Oct. 29 and 30.

The storm reportedly hit Earth's magnetic field at 1 a.m. eastern standard time on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

The storm was reported as extremely rare and capable of producing colorful auroras in the night sky visible as far south as Texas through Friday, Oct. 31.

trace of the aircraft or the two pilots were ever found. Surprisingly no debris, no oil slick, nothing was ever found.

The Air Force changed its story a couple times about this incident, finally stating that the F-89 exploded at high altitude, but strangely ignoring the fact that this would have left a lot of debris on the lake's surface.

Finally NICAP (National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena) found out that there was no mention of the Lt. Felix Moncla mission, chasing an unidentified target. It was completely obliterated from the official records. On the other hand, Project Bluebook case files simply list the case as an "accident."

Now 50 years later, we still really wonder what happened that evening of Nov. 23, 1953, of Lt. Felix Moncla and Lt. Wilson and the Scorpion F-89-C jet. Off the record, speculation was the object was a huge UFO, and it took the whole plane and crew that fateful evening.

It will be probably many years more or less that the world here will finally see disclosure on UFO's worldwide. This area here in upper Wisconsin is a hot spot of UFO activity. Take a look one night and watch the skies around here.

Wolf Retzlaff
Ashland

BURNETT CO. SENTINEL, Grantsburg, WI - Jan. 14, 2004

'Mysterious' vehicles identified?

GRANTSBURG—Unusual vehicles were in Crex Meadows last fall.

The report a few weeks ago of an unidentified flying object south of Grantsburg included reports of "military-type" vehicles in Crex Meadows, which couldn't be verified at the time.

In conversation last week, state employees at Crex who were not available at the time

of the inquiry then, said state forest fire fighting employees were in the marsh testing equipment specially designed for fighting fires in that environment.

Some of those vehicles run on tracks, they said, and look very different from typical fire fighting equipment or over-the-road vehicles. — Chet Newman, Sentinel Reporter.

CR: R. Heiden

BEYOND FLYING SAUCERS

Imaginations Soar At UFO Conference

SECRETS OF TATRA CAVE STILL MYSTERY AFTER 50 YEARS

By Becca Bacon Martin

THE MORNING NEWS • BMARTIN@NWAONLINE.NET

EUREKA SPRINGS

From the time he was a child, Ted Phillips has been looking up into the sky. In those early years, growing up in rural Missouri, all Phillips saw was stars. But it wasn't long before he started hearing stories about things that went "whoosh" in the night — things other people swore they had seen — and he wanted to know what they were.

He's has been investigating UFO sightings ever since.

This weekend, Phillips will be preaching to the choir when he speaks at the 2004 Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs. And he admits he'll hear stories even he doesn't believe.

"Good stuff is hard to find," Phillips says of UFO evidence. "And the stuff that gets in the newspaper is goofy! Reporters don't want to write about plant evidence at a landing site."

That, however, is one of Phillips' specialties. Over the last 35 years, he has logged some 3,059 investigations and heard

GO AND DO

OZARK UFO CONFERENCE

Dates: Today through Sunday

Times: Registration begins at 8 a.m. today; the final session Sunday is set for 11:30 a.m.

Venue: Inn of the Ozarks Convention Center in Eureka Springs

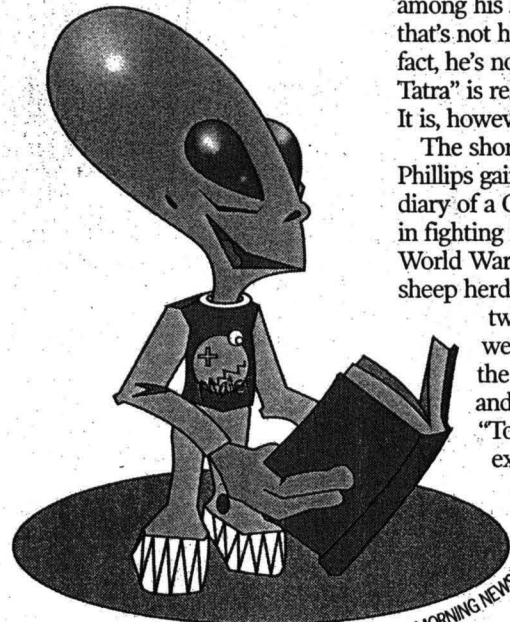
Admission: \$40 at the door

FOR INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.OZARKUFO.COM.

stories from witnesses so credible, he says, they could "send a man to the electric chair on their testimony. Yet once they start talking about flying saucers, they're no longer credible.

"If I'm in any group of people and the subject (of UFOs) comes up, I will hear of a sighting," Phillips says. "It's difficult to imagine science is not doing cartwheels to investigate."

Over the years, Phillips was involved in hundreds of investigations with Dr. J. Allen Hynek, an astrophysicist at



ARTWORK BY GABRIEL CALZADA • THE MORNING NEWS

among his 3,059 investigations, that's not his primary subject. In fact, he's not sure that "Project Tatra" is related to UFOs at all. It is, however, a fascinating story.

The short version is that Phillips gained access to the diary of a Czech soldier injured in fighting in Slovakia during World War II. Rescued by a sheep herder, the soldier and two of his comrades were hidden in a cave in the Tatra Mountains — and there, Phillips says, "Tony" found something extraordinary. It was a

"huge black wall, overgrown by cave formations, two miles back in a cave, 2,700 feet below the top of the mountain."

The "artifact," as Phillips calls it, was 27 feet high, about 20 feet wide and curved, "It looked almost like looking in a mirror of steel," he describes, "totally smooth, no seams, no rivets."

The soldier slipped through a crack in the wall to a "huge structure, shaped like a fat crescent moon, with 7-foot-thick walls that extended up beyond the light of his torches," Phillips goes on. On subsequent visits, he found he couldn't scratch the surface of the artifact with a

pick — but he could dig down through the limestone floor. About 60 inches in, he found a prehistoric cave bear skeleton and, under it, grillwork with warmth coming up through it. He also heard a sound, which he described as "something like a distant turbine."

"Remember, this is a mining engineer with four degrees from the University of Prague," Phillips reminds. "He knows about the sound of dripping water versus a turbine."

When Tony left the cave, he sealed off the crawlways that led to his discovery. According to Phillips, bombing later in the war also damaged the cave. But on trips to Europe in 1998 and 2001, Phillips found the cave and confirmation that it is indeed the one where three wounded soldiers were sheltered in 1944.

Now, he wants to shore up the cave's interior and look for the unexplained black wall.

"Of course, funding is always difficult," Phillips admits, "because it's such a farfetched story — unless you've spent 30 years looking into it"

In the meantime, Phillips has found two more artifacts that might be related to the one in Slovakia. He won't venture a guess what they are, except to note that the one described in

the diary had 6,000 years of limestone deposits inside it, along with the skeleton of an animal that had been extinct for 11,000 years.

"At first I thought it might be some kind of directional beacon, some kind of transmitter, but why? And who?" he wonders.

Phillips will discuss the Tatra Project at 2:45 p.m. Saturday at the Inn of the Ozarks

Convention Center. Other scheduled speakers include:

► Don Ledger, "Shag Harbor Incident Then and Now."

► Beverly Trout, "Reptilian Perspective: Serpents of Wisdom or Snakes in the Grass."

► Nancy Talbott, "Eyewitness Reports and More Physical Evidence"

► Wendelle C. Stevens, "UFO Visitors From Planet Kermer."

► Grant Cameron, "The UFO Capital of the World."

► David Rudiak, "1994 Nellis Range UFO Video: New Insights."

► Linda Moulton Howe, "Earth Mysteries Updates: From Mars to Cuba."

► Timothy Good, "UFO Contacts, Mystery Triangles and the European Union."

More information on the UFO Conference, which is under way today, is available at www.ozarkufo.com.

March 31, 2004

Abductees share stories

An alien abduction night held at Double Six Gallery in Grants last month featured spaceship paintings, glow-in-the-dark jewelry and a sense of light-hearted fun. The second meeting last Thursday had a slightly different tone.

The gathering was small - only about 10 people - but the geographical areas represented at the gallery event were large. Cars in the parking lot showed owners from Arizona, Colorado, North Dakota and New Mexico. Residents of the star Zeta Articulii were the main (serious) topic of conversation.

Three people in the group claimed to have met the aliens before. Former Grants resident Robert Allen said he has seen the star travelers many times, and has been abducted several times as well. Gil Riggs claimed to have seen aliens since 1951, when he was in the Coast Guard in Alaska. A woman who refused to identify herself said aliens attempted to abduct her but she refused to go.

Allen

Allen said he was first abducted in 1990 while living in Grants. "They came through the walls and took me," he explained. The spacemen reportedly told him, "We love you," at the time of his abduction.

Allen has since made it his mission to educate the world about our brothers from space by selling videotapes, giving talks about alien descriptions in the Bible and interpreting petroglyphs that show 1,200-year-old drawings of star travelers riding on disks. He believes crop circles, cattle mutilations and alien pregnancies are all the work of spiny gray people from outer space.

"I'm amazed people are talking of this openly," Allen said. "Many people are afraid to speak out because of ridicule."

Allen believes the Earth is about to experience a massive spiritual change as aliens try to change human DNA and help earthlings avoid a nuclear-related disaster like "The Grays" experienced in the past. "We have a mission to make them feel welcome."

Allen said he thinks "We are interplanetary beings ourselves" who were brought here from outer space, and that the aliens like us because the Earth is so beautiful from space.

He advised audience members to carry a camera everywhere they go, even though he said he has never succeeded in getting a picture of an alien.

Allen believes aliens don't show themselves openly because the U.S. military wants to use their technology for military purposes. He named President Dwight D. Eisenhower, President George W. Bush and former Fuhrer Adolph Hitler as famous UFO sighters. Hitler shot down a UFO in Germany during World War II, according to Allen.

"Grants needs to go out and reach everyone on the subject," he said.

Riggs

Gil Riggs said the aliens are nitrogen-based life forms who were created in a laboratory and cannot reproduce on their own. That is why they keep trying to get Earth women pregnant - so they can remove the alien baby before it is born, "without scars or anything." He said the aliens are also concerned about humans blowing themselves up with atomic bombs, and that they remove gold from the earth with lasers.

Riggs claimed that UFOs are so common that the US and USSR signed agreements during the Cold War to hold off on launching nuclear bombs until after they had verified that no UFOs were involved. Airline pilots and stewardesses have been told to keep their mouths shut about UFO sightings, he added, and military pilots can be court-martialed if they talk.

Riggs claimed to have seen half-mile-long mother ships while UFO watching in Laguna and San Diego. Some answered questions by blinking their lights.



—Photos courtesy of Ralph McCormick

PICTURED ABOVE is the windscreen; the left side shows the cracked glass and the right side is distorted by raindrops. Inset picture is of Ken Pearson.

UFO strikes plane

By FLY-LOW PUBLICATIONS
Special to Headlight

Having flown in all kinds of conditions since the early '60s, Ken Pearson of Bigelow experienced a most unusual occurrence in February of this year, somewhere over Texas. This event will certainly not be repeated often.

It was 7:30 in the morning; Pearson was flying a Cessna 421 for Koontz Electric Co., his employer. There was one passenger, Pete Foster of Conway, electrical engineer with Koontz Electric, on board. Level at 15,000 feet msl, on an IFR flight plan, but not in IFR conditions. An Unidentified Falling Object came out of the sky and hit the left windscreen. The impact at 220 knots shattered, but did not penetrate the integrity of the glass. If it had, this story would be in the NTSB accident reports.

"I advised Houston Center of the impact, not declaring an emergency at that time. As long as the windscreen maintained its

integrity, we would be OK.

There was no guarantee that it would hold. My decision to reduce speed to 100 knots was an attempt to keep the glass intact. The quick look I got at the object made it appear as if it was a yellowish gray cube like metallic color. It appeared to be from 4 to 6 inches in diameter. Where it came from, I do not know. Center was not handling any other craft in my area at the time. It could have come from space for all I know," Pearson said.

Being hit with space junk, parts from an airplane, ice from a distant storm all have been taken into consideration. The storm was a good 25 miles distant. There was only one item that came toward the plane and it appeared metallic, not like an ice ball. "The item came out of clear sky and moved toward the plane like a curve ball being thrown. One would think this item would have had a straight path as it approached the plane, it didn't,"

Pearson said emphatically.

"Upon arrival to our destination, we found the ceiling was 400 feet. My decision was to get vectors to Gulf Port, Miss. At that location, I was furnished with a surveillance approach. The landing was uneventful. I did have to lean over to the right to see out of that window to find the runway," stated Pearson.

Pearson has had one previous gear up landing due to gear malfunction, an exhaust fire on one engine, and now this hit from the Unidentified Falling Object. He feels pretty secure — even a cat has nine lives.

He talked of earthly astronauts who believe in little gray men from space, and of how those little visitors follow him around. He also believes in reincarnation, and that people from Atlantis had space travel.

Other audience members

A woman who refused to identify herself, but who said she is a psychiatric nurse, had her own memories of an attempted abduction that she refused to participate in. She felt there are several kinds of aliens with different missions concerning Earth, and that they can be divided into "Good Guys" and "Bad Guys." The woman said her boss is a psychiatrist who treats abductees' psychological problems, and that the U.S. government is trying to cover up proof of alien visits. Allen agreed. "There's lots of secret stuff the government doesn't want us to know."

Even local residents got into the act. Janice Derrick didn't make any comments about her own beliefs, but noted that UFO sightings are a rural phenomena

and that people often saw lights in the sky when she was a girl growing up in Oklahoma. "Every country on Earth has encountered this problem," she said.

Artist Dennis Black said he attended a UFO conference in Stockton Pass, Arizona, and that the area is sometimes called a "portal" for space visitors. "All things are possible," he said. Of course, Black also wore a t-shirt that stated, "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, and then used against you."

The next Alien Abduction Night is planned for 6 p.m. on April 27 at the Double Six Gallery. For more information, call 287-7311 or stop by 117 N. First Street in Grants. - Marian Hamilton



EUROPEAN VOICE, Brussels, Belgium - March 18, 2004

Scepticism set to scupper any chance of Union-led UFO research

By JAMES DREW

ARE we alone in the universe? If not, are we being visited by our intergalactic neighbours? Such questions, normally pondered following an excellent supper, when port and cigars are handed out and thoughts turn to philosophical matters, have once again appeared on the European Parliament's radar screen.

On 20 January, Union for Europe of the Nations (UEN) MEP Sebastiano Musumeci submitted a proposal concerning the "creation of a Community body for the study of unexplained atmospheric phenomena". In other words, unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

"For a long time now," Musumeci declared, "sightings... have been reported in all corners of the globe. Some of these phenomena... not only cause considerable perplexity but also fuel theories - so far lacking any foundation - on the probable existence of aliens."

The Italian MEP pointed out that the European Commission should pay special attention to the "serious study" by various European space centres and research establishments, "since these phenomena do not fall within the scope of individual member state competence".

"In the light of the above, would the Commission not consider it appropriate to promote and coordinate research and information on unexplained atmospheric phenomena at a Europe-wide level, possibly assigning this responsibility to a specialized and experienced body, such as [French government organization] Service d'Expertise des Phénomènes de Rentrées Atmosphériques (SEPPRA) in Toulouse, or the European Space Agency?"

It is not the first time that such a recommendation has been put before EU institutions and, considering Belgium's previous history of remarkable (and well-documented) sightings, perhaps the question's most surprising characteristic is its rarity.

For at least eight months, beginning in October 1989, Belgium experienced nearly daily sightings of large triangular-shaped UFOs. The sightings began near Eupen, close to the Dutch and German border, and then progressed steadily westward to Liège, Namur, Wavre, Mons and, finally, toward the French border.

Among the witnesses were nearly two hundred members and officers of the *gendarmerie nationale* as well as policemen, military and civilian pilots, air traffic controllers, meteorologists, aeronautical engineers and physicists.

Observers frequently described the objects as being "as big as a football field", "as big as, or bigger than, an aircraft carrier". An account also describes one "hovering for minutes at a time and [it would] pivot, turning 90 degrees and even 180 degrees" and then moving "too slowly to be a conventional aeroplane", before "accelerating so rapidly that it would be across the horizon in a second or two - and sometimes it would flash right back".

On 30-31 March 1990, Belgian Air Force (BAF) F-16 jets were scrambled to intercept the unknown intruders, their radar confirming the objects' ability to elude their pursuers by means of phenomenal manoeuvres, as evident on the radar tapes later released to the media. In *Vague d'OVNI sur la Belgique* (*Wave of UFOs over Belgium*), a two-volume text produced by Brussels-based research group Société Belge d'Etude des Phénomènes Spatiaux, retired deputy chief of the BAF, Major-General Wilfried De Brouwer, said: "The Air Force has arrived at the conclusion that a number of anomalous phenomena has been produced within Belgian airspace. The numerous testimonies of observations... reinforced by the [Air Force] reports of the night of 30-31 March, have led us to face the hypothesis that a certain number of unauthorized aerial activities have taken place."

These remarkable events led to a resolution being proposed by Belgian deputy Elio Di Rupo to the European Parliament in 1991. The assembly's committee on industry, external trade, research and energy held numerous meetings, chaired by Tullio Regge, an Italian Independent MEP and physicist. Di Rupo's intention was to bring about an all-European agency, run by the Commission and with a standing committee of experts from the member states, which would collate and analyze UFO reports from the military, scientific organizations and the general public.

In a report tabled in December 1993 - accepted unanimously by the committee - Regge proposed that SEPRA in Toulouse be given a statute enabling it to carry out inquiries throughout the EU. But the proposal to establish what might have become the European UFO observation centre attracted a great deal of ridicule in the media and the motion was defeated in early 1994.

In his report, Regge expressed considerable scepticism about the majority of UFO 'sightings', although he noted that "scientists still have a duty to continue researching into these events in order to arrive at a satisfactory explanation". Later, he emphasized that the proposal by the committee had focused on the creation of a European evaluation centre within SEPRA, rather than on a study of the phenomena per se, but largely thanks to ridicule in the media - particularly in the UK - critics ignored this point.

"I was attacked by two UK Labour MEPs who probably hadn't even read the report," lamented the scientist. "I was accused of asking for money to do research into Father Christmas and things

of this kind. They put obstacles in my path and this developed into a strong attack by the UK. I believe that Labour MEPs decided to attack this report for political reasons, just to make a fuss."

Almost certainly as a result of the ensuing ridicule, the then European Parliament president Egon Klepsch omitted the debate from its agenda on 21 January 1994.

Regge proposed a new text, but because the Parliament was approaching the end of session (owing to the election in June 1994) there was insufficient time to bring the proposal before the assembly's full session.

'No one wants to look foolish, least of all politicians. When faced with worldwide media that seems hell-bent on mocking any research, it is hardly surprising that people become discouraged'

The reaction comes as no surprise to hard-nosed investigators. Timothy Good, UK bestselling author of ufologists' 'bibles', such as *Beyond Top Secret* (1996) and *Unearthly Disclosure* (2000), one of the world's most highly regarded UFO

experts, and a man injured, after 50 years of painstaking research, to sceptics' slings and arrows, believes that fear of mockery has held back serious debate on the issue for too long.

"No one wants to look foolish, least of all politicians," he told *European Voice*. "When faced with worldwide media that seems hell-bent on mocking any research,

no matter how sober or well intentioned, it is hardly surprising that people become discouraged. I welcome Musumeci's proposal, but I fear that nothing will come of it."

His view is echoed by Nick Pope, who was responsible for the UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) UFO research project from 1991-94: "Despite being interested in Musumeci's Parliamentary question concerning the study of unexplained atmospheric phenomena, I doubt the European Commission will accept the suggestion, despite the fact that coordinating research and investigation on a Union-wide basis seems like a very sensible idea."

"It is a great pity that the Commission does not promote and coordinate research into such matters."

"During my time at the MoD's UFO research project, we investigated several hundred sighting reports each year and, while most could be explained as misidentifications of known objects or phenomena, others appeared to defy any conventional explanation."

"Whatever the explanation for them, if there are things in our airspace that we do not understand, this raises a number of defence and flight safety issues."

Pope also agrees with Musumeci's point that "this is not an issue confined to any one member state".

"If we pool our data and work together on the problem, we stand a better chance of solving the mystery."

jamesdrew@economist.com



Late night visitors? Despite much documentation, serious research by the EU into UFOs is unlikely

UFO sightings across Europe

1942-45: Allied pilots on bombing raids over Germany reported seeing unusual balls of lights and small metallic discs. Dubbed 'Foo Fighters', the Allies feared they were a new Nazi weapon. After the war it transpired that German air crew had seen them too, but were also unaware of their origin.

1946: Strange objects were seen over Norway, Sweden and Finland. UK and American intelligence took a close interest in sightings of these so-called ghost rockets, but no explanation was ever found.

1956: A series of UFO sightings took place over England, in August. Objects were tracked on radars at Royal Air Force (RAF) Lakenheath and RAF Bentwaters and the RAF scrambled two Venom fighters to try to intercept the object. One pilot said he saw the UFO, which eluded the jets.

1980: In December, United States Air Force personnel based at RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge in England reported seeing a landed UFO in Rendlesham Forest, in Suffolk. Radiation readings were taken from the landing site, assessed as being ten times the norm for the area.

1981: In January, a UFO was seen landing near the village of Trans-en-Provence in France. Unusual marks were found at the landing site and an analysis of the soil showed various anomalies.

1990: On 5 November a number of fast jets travelling from the UK to Germany were overtaken by a UFO as they were entering Dutch airspace. The pilots submitted an official report to the British Ministry of Defence.

1993: In March, a UFO flew over RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury, seen by military personnel. A report was sent to UK Ministry of Defence.

Out there



Photo: Dan Toulgoet

by Naoibh O'Connor
staff writer

Just past 6 p.m. on Aug. 11, last year, Diana Luca and her mother, who was visiting from Romania, were chatting at the kitchen table in Luca's New Westminster home. It was a beautiful windless evening, the clear blue sky visible from their seats in front of a large south-facing window.

Out of the corner of her eye, Luca spotted a black object behind the trees in the back alley. "Look, it's a balloon," she told her mother. But when the two stepped onto the patio, they saw what they now insist is a UFO. "It still freaks me out, I could see it flying behind the trees and on top of the shorter trees," says the 34-year-old, recalling the incident from the living room of her new house.

Luca claims the object—flat and shaped like a Fris-

bee—flipped to its underside, which was as red and shiny as a Coke can.

Scared, she called her common-law husband, Mark Murphy, who was inside. By the time he reached the porch, the object looked cigar shaped and was an estimated three kilometres away. Murphy rushed inside to retrieve a camcorder purchased two days earlier, documenting the rest of the sighting on tape, which he keeps under lock and key. The 35-year-old property manager has since copied the tape onto a DVD that he plays over and over.

From the right side of the screen, a small, shiny object moves towards the centre, then heads rapidly towards the camera. As it gets closer, it becomes a round, black form that vibrates slightly, at one point turning on its side, giving it the cigar shape.

Last year there were more UFO sightings in Vancouver than any other Canadian city, which doesn't surprise believers Martin Jasek (l) and Graham Conway (r)

Murphy loses sight of it several times and is forced to refocus to recapture the object on film. It zips across the screen so quickly on another occasion that it can only be seen later, when Murphy watches the tape in slow motion.

"It's something I'll never forget for the rest of my life—I was in shock. The clarity of this is just incredible," he says. "I heard about UFOs but had written [them] off in my head. I'm a skeptical kind of person who has to touch it to believe it, but now I'm not too certain."

It sounds farfetched, but he's got a lot of company locally.

According to the 2003 Canadian UFO Survey, reported by Chris Rutkowski of UFOlogy Research of Manitoba, more than 673 sightings of UFOs—defined literally as flying objects that can't be identified—were documented across the country last year, including 41 in Vancouver, making it the city with the highest number of reports. Sources of the reports include the National UFO Reporting Center in the U.S., UFO*BC, the Houston B.C. Centre for UFO Research and the Meteor and Impacts Advisory Committee to the Canadian Space Agency.

Only 17 per cent of the 673 sightings remain unexplained—the rest were simply fireballs, meteors or other natural phenomena.

Skeptics may brush off UFO



Mark Murphy on the UFO captured on video and highlighted on the TV behind him: "It's something I'll never forget for the rest of my life—I was in shock."

photo: Dan Toulgoet

sightings as the side effect of too much B.C. bud, but some members of an organization called UFO*BC believe the earth has been visited by alien ships.

Graham Conway, the group's vice president, claims to have spotted 30

himself, and insists many more individuals are willing to admit sightings of these days. "The social acceptance has changed. People are prepared to come forward and not feel they'll be written off as kooks."

In 1947, KENNETH ARNOLD, a pilot involved in a search for a downed aircraft near Mount Rainier, reported seeing nine objects flying at an estimated 1,200 miles an hour across the mountains. They were

crescent-shaped, so he described them as saucers skipping across the water—hence the term "flying saucers." For Graham Conway, it sparked an interest in UFOs that's never diminished. At the time, he was living in Sheffield, England and interested in enigmas. "Fifty-seven years later, I'm nowhere nearer a solution than the day I started," he says from the living room of his middle-class home in Delta.

Aside from what many would consider a quirky obsession with UFOs, the 76-year-old has led a relatively normal life, working in the hospitality industry and teaching food studies and consumer education in Ontario and B.C. After retiring in 1986, he worked for the Salvation Army for eight years before landing a job with the Delta School Board as a noon-time supervisor at a secondary school.

For a few years, he was associated with an American group called the Mutual UFO Network, which bills itself as the world's largest civilian UFO research organization, but found B.C. reports seemed to drop into a black hole, never to be heard of again. Frustrated, Conway and a small group of like-minded friends formed UFO*BC in 1995, and were later joined by Martin Jasek, a 40-year-old engineer for a utilities company.

The non-profit society operates a 24-hour hotline for reporting sightings, a web site and a quarterly newsletter. Members also host lectures on subjects ranging from alien abductions to cattle mutilations and crop circles. Each year, they investigate a few UFO reports in the Lower Mainland or Interior.

Jasek, the group's mild-mannered treasurer, developed an interest in the subject while living in Whitehorse, where he said reports of unidentified flying objects were plentiful. Unlike Conway, he's only spotted one UFO—a term he uses literally in this case, although he suspects that some UFOs are "intelligently controlled craft" that are not man-made.

Jasek's brief sighting occurred in 1998, while driving across Manitoba during daylight hours. He glanced over to a slight hill on his left where a white ball, three metres in diameter and roughly 200 metres away, appeared. Seconds later, it was obscured by trees as the vehicle travelled along the highway. By the time the trees cleared, it had disappeared. To this day, Jasek, a soft-spoken, serious man, isn't sure what he saw.

Conway, however, has no reservations about his sightings.

With little prompting, he rattles off several anecdotes. In one case, he was heading up Canada Way towards Edmonds Street when traffic hit a standstill. Looking up, he spotted a red, disk-shaped object, possibly six feet in diameter. None of the passengers in the cars beside him appeared to see it. When traffic moved forward slightly, the object became more mirror-like, then headed in a northwesterly direction. Total viewing time: five minutes.

Another time, Conway was moonlighting as a security officer at a large parking lot on Annacis Island when he observed a square aluminum-like craft hovering above a plant emitting steam that was being circled by seagulls and eagles. Viewing conditions were excellent, according to Conway, who watched it head northeast towards the Fraser River for about 10 minutes.

Lack of physical proof does nothing to shake his confidence. In fact, both men looked puzzled when asked if others see them as eccentric or odd. "Most people do believe [in UFOs]," insists Jasek. "You'd be surprised how many people you know

(continued on page 10)

have seen something totally unexplainable, but they don't divulge it without being prompted."

Conway speculates special psychic gifts passed down through families make people like him more susceptible to seeing UFOs. "We have thousands and thousands of reports. Every one can't be a case of misidentification."

THE NATIONAL UFO Reporting Centre out of Seattle, WA., registered two notable UFO sightings in Vancouver last year. One, on Feb. 12, just past 9 p.m., was from a self-described "harsh critic of aliens and all that stuff," who lives in downtown Vancouver on the 16th floor of a high-rise. The witness was about to watch *The Simpsons* and spotted an object flying over some buildings, initially brushing it off as light from a construction crane. But that turned out not to be the case—nor was the high-rise on a flight path and the lights weren't blinking, as on an aircraft. Instead, they were "constantly beaming a hazy sort of weird whitish/yellowish light."

"At first I didn't see the three lights on the triangular craft until it very, very slowly, and I stress *silently*, without the smallest sound, just hovered

towards my building. I mean anything made by man that flies only 500 meters away has to make a sound."

After failing to find a camera in the apartment, the witness, whose gender isn't apparent from the write-up, ran down to the street and saw the "craft" travel vertically into the sky, remain stationary for a while, then leave. "Some other people saw this downstairs and they didn't care. They said it's no big deal, probably some governmental plane. But what would a governmental plane be doing in downtown Vancouver?"

At 3 a.m. Oct. 31, another person reported seeing red, orange, green, blue, yellow and white lights rotating under and around the edges of an object. The lights weren't bright. It was eerily silent and the object was moving in "more of a hover, almost a slight wobble from too low a speed," notes the entry. "It had to be enormous in size. I guesstimate I was 1-2 kilometres from it, then it passed behind a building." According to the witness, it would have been visible to anyone outside at 3 a.m., near English Bay or the Stanley Park area. Its altitude was very low, a few hundred feet over the water at English Bay.

DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO CON-

"At first I didn't see the three lights on the triangular craft until it very, very slowly, and I stress silently, without the smallest sound, just hovered towards my building. I mean anything made by man that flies only 500 meters away has to make a sound."—Statement from report on sighting in downtown Vancouver

vince Lee Moller of the existence of alien space crafts, however. To the computer programmer, a founding member of the B.C. Society for Skeptical Enquiry, UFOs are exactly that—unidentified flying objects that likely have a rational explanation.

Moller argues the sheer distance between stars makes the prospect of space travel highly unlikely. While the earth is one "astronomical unit" or 98 million miles away from the sun, the next nearest star is 300,000 astronomical units away from the sun—that's four-and-a-half light years. "I'd actually be quite shocked if there wasn't extraterrestrial life out there, but you have to understand how big the universe actually is. [Travelling] about between the stars

is not a cheap thing to do."

"If we ever talk to [extraterrestrial life], it's almost certainly going to be through radio waves, not through personal visits—at least in the short term."

Some people confuse conventional aircraft, landing lights, satellites or planets with UFOs, suggests the 47-year-old skeptic, because the average person is unfamiliar with natural phenomena such as sun dogs—reflections of the sun that look like big glowing balls—meteors or Venus, for instance.

Thanks to a temperate climate in B.C., more people also go out walking, and are thus more likely to spot objects they can't identify in the sky, Moller adds.

Moller cites several cases in which experts have exposed so-called proof of UFOs. Philip Klass, known as the top UFO debunker in the United States, has come up with plausible explanations for a number of UFO sightings, including uncovering the truth behind a striking photo taken by a Florida man. It turned out to be a double exposure of an outdoor light with a paper shade. "All I can really say is that if aliens did really take the time and effort to travel the light years that's required to actually come to the earth, somehow I don't think they'd be communicating with us by zipping around the night sky or drawing big patterns in crops," said Moller.

"Having said all that, I would love for it to be true. Nothing would be more cool or interesting than the day humanity talks, in any sense, to something off the planet—it's going to be one of the greatest days in history."

Barry Beyerstein, a UFO skeptic and psychology professor at Simon Fraser University who's been involved in brain research, pointed out quasars and pulsars were once thought to be signs of extraterrestrial life by noted scientists.

In 1970, he added, English

a UFO (or perhaps TIFO, Tentatively Identified...), but not one I am going to lose sleep over."

Murphy, who maintains he didn't make the tape to make money although he is in "talks" with a producer from California, is unmoved by critics, stressing the extreme rate of speed the object travelled at.

"You can hear it in my voice how shocked I am. It's not a plane, it's not a balloon, it's not a bird—that's no transportation for humans. [Debunkers] can call me up—I'll debate any skeptic," he said. "It could be the military, it could be aliens—who knows? It was one of those things where the universe opened up and said look what's out there."

Murphy insists he'd love to get to the bottom of the mystery and wonders whether anyone else in his neighbourhood saw something similar.

Luca said she never believed in extraterrestrial life until the August experience. "Now, at this point, after I've seen it I have this feeling—it's not a belief—that it's from another world, something which we don't know, something we cannot explain with our intelligence or something we can't perceive."

"It happened. We caught it on tape—that's it."

For information about UFO*BC or the skeptic society, check out www.ufobc.ca and www.seerom.com/bc/index.cgi

The web site for the Houston B.C. Centre for UFO research, which can be reached at 1-250-845-2189, is at www.bccufo.com

PRESS & JOURNAL, Aberdeen,

Scotland - March 9, 2004

Did UFO scupper Beagle 2 mission to the Red Planet?

EUROPEAN scientists are examining an image of the Beagle 2 Mars lander—taken moments after it was spun off from its mother ship—that also shows an unidentified object.

The mysterious blot on the photograph is being scrutinised as one of several potential reasons for the failure of the mission—Europe's first attempt to land a probe on the Red Planet.

Mission controllers told a London meeting that they were also considering the possibility that Beagle 2 simply crashed on to the surface of Mars because the atmosphere on the planet was less dense than expected.

Scientists are examining photographs of the landing site that show four bright spots, dubbed the "string of pearls," that might be Beagle 2's remains.

Beagle 2 has not been heard from since it was ejected from the European Space Agency's Mars Express orbiter in mid-December. The 143lb probe gave no answering signal to scheduled attempts to contact it on Christmas Day and has remained stubbornly silent ever since.

After repeated attempts at communication and last-ditch changes to programming, mission controllers admitted defeat last month.

Mark Sims, Beagle 2 mission manager, showed fellow scientists an image of the lander as it shot away from Mars Express, depicting both a bright spot in the shade of the side of the lander and an entirely separate object.

Mr Sims said the image was still being analysed in an attempt to determine whether the marks are significant or simply a result of the imaging process.

"The bright object and the glint on the side of Beagle 2 may be nothing. They may be everything," he said.

Mr Sims added that the "string of pearls" may also simply show artefacts of the imaging process.

One theory about the missing probe gaining credence is that Mars's atmosphere was not as dense as expected—so Beagle 2 may simply have been going too fast for its parachute and air bags to ensure a soft landing.

That idea is supported by evidence from Nasa, which also reported a less dense atmosphere than expected on the entry of its first rover, Spirit, on January 3.

The US space agency succeeded in getting its vehicle down safely because of Spirit's multiple chutes and robust air bag system.

physicist David Simpson conducted a controlled hoax to expose UFOlogists' readiness to unquestioningly accept sightings. Late one evening, he set up a 12-volt high-intensity purple spotlight directed towards a hill three-quarters of a mile away in the town of Warminster, England, where a group of 30 sky-watchers stood. It was switched on and off at intervals. One of Simpson's colleagues operating a fake magnetic field sensor was placed amongst the sky watchers. At one point, he sounded its alarm buzzer, which signals the presence of a strong magnetic field—supposedly a sign of UFOs.

Meanwhile, another colleague pretended to take a picture of the light from a camera on a tripod. Part of the film had already been exposed, capturing two images, according to an account of the experiment written by Simpson. They depicted a night view of street lamps with a bogus UFO superimposed. The photographer took two real photos so the developed film would show four negatives—two with UFOs and two without. "They were designed to present substantial inconsistencies that would allow any moderately critical investigator to cast strong suspicion on their authenticity," Simpson wrote.

For more than two years, the hoax was kept secret while UFOlogists debated the supposed sighting.

Correspondence collected by Simpson during that time indicates many concluded it

"If we ever talk to [extraterrestrials], it's almost certainly going to be through radio waves, not through personal visits...."

—Lee Moller, B.C. Society for Skeptical Enquiry



wasn't a fake.

"...It is important to be aware of the general calibre of UFO enthusiasts, even if they do not appear to have been directly involved in the case. Their irrational thinking is infectious and has frequently provided the media with entertaining headlines," he wrote. "As a result, certain members of the general public, on seeing something in the sky that is strange to them, describe not what they see but what they think they ought to have seen."

Although both Conway and Jasek argue it's equally important to be skeptical of the skeptics, whose agenda is to disprove everything, Beyerstein points out "the burden of proof is always on the claimant."

MARK MURPHY and Diana Luca insist they have proof of a UFO in their tape, but Moller, for one, isn't convinced, after watching a version of it posted on the web

site www.rense.com.

While Moller doesn't doubt the couple's sincerity, he said he's seen a lot of UFO photos and movies that look similar. He argues that a small, shiny object the size of a Frisbee or pie plate launched into the air could look exactly like what's captured on film, pointing out the object only appears to stay in the air for about three seconds. The shininess suggests it caught the light of the setting sun and the cigar shape simply comes from a change in the angle from which it's viewed.

Moller suspects the object disappears at the one third mark of the tape simply because it fell from the sky, perhaps into a neighbour's yard or field.

"In my view, this is an unremarkable movie," he wrote in an e-mail. "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. I find 'pie plate' more plausible than 'extraterrestrial,' although I am happy to let the whole thing remain

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - March 29, 2004 CR: G. Conway

Pilot of PM's plane reports close encounter with UFO

BY JIM BRONSKILL

OTTAWA — What fate the stars hold for Paul Martin may be unclear. But one thing's certain: Canada's prime minister recently had a high-flying close encounter with a UFO.

Martin and his entourage were cruising above Alberta when their Challenger jet came within an otherworldly whisker of a luminous object streaking through the night sky.

In a report to Edmonton air-

traffic controllers, the pilot of Martin's plane noted seeing a "very bright light falling" through the air, with smoke trailing, while the aircraft passed over Suffield, Alta., on Sunday, March 21.

People aboard at least two other planes also saw the plummeting object, which was travelling "at a very fast rate of speed" from a high altitude, says the report.

A copy of the one-page form, titled "UFO Procedures," was provided to the Canadian Press by

Chris Rutkowski of the Winnipeg-based group Ufology Research of Manitoba. Rutkowski, a longtime tracker of UFO sightings, obtained the report from the federal Transport Department, which routinely forwards him data on unidentified flying objects.

Martin travelled to a farm near Picture Butte, Alta., to announce an aid package for farmers last Monday.

So was an extraterrestrial envoy trying to convey a message to

Canada's new leader? Unlikely, says Rutkowski. What the prime minister's plane and many others saw that night was almost certainly a chunk of a comet or an asteroid that entered Earth's atmosphere and burned up into fragments.

An amateur astronomer in Calgary captured the blazing streak on videotape. And it appears one or more such fireballs were seen by people across the Prairies and as far east as Quebec.

Canadian Press

UFO film showing

FOOTAGE of the recent UFO sightings over Fleetwood will be shown in public for the first time at this month's meeting of the Lancashire Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society. The footage captured by Fleetwood residents shows the strange objects which have been shocking people in the town for three years. The meeting will be held at The Guard's Club in Whitegate Drive, Blackpool at 8.30pm on Thursday.

Have aliens got their eyes on Portsmouth?

BY SUZY AUSTIN

MOST sightings of UFOs turn out to be hoaxes, tricks of light or, in one case, a roof being lifted on to a building.

But enthusiast Anthony Woods claims to have captured comprehensive proof of alien life.

His camcorder film of 200 alleged sightings above Portsmouth is being hailed 'the greatest daylight UFO footage ever seen'. It shows strange orbs and lights in the sky.

Experts, including Prof Roger Green of Warwick University, have ruled out digital trickery and UFO Magazine was so impressed it has helped Mr Woods release a DVD of his footage.

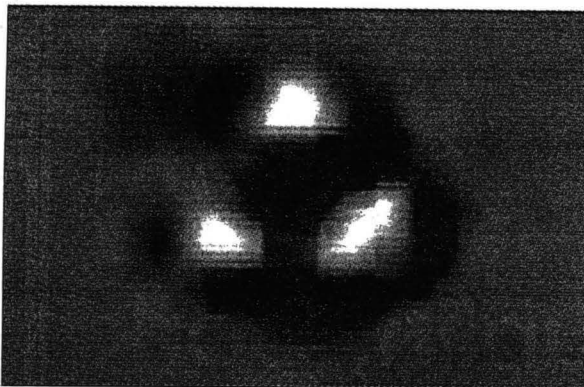
Mr Woods, who claims he first saw a UFO while playing football as an eight-year-old, said he did not know



UFO spotter: Anthony Woods

why he saw so many when no one else had reported sightings. 'What they are or where they come from is still very much a mystery. I feel very privileged that they have appeared to me but I do not feel chosen as such,' he added.

His DVD will be premiered this week at the International UFO Congress in Nevada before going on sale.



Trick or treat? A UFO sighting captured on Mr Woods' film

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES, Ipswich, England Feb. 20, 2004

Looking for data on UFO incident

Sir, - I am trying to contact as many civilians and ex-servicemen who were serving at Bentwaters and Woodbridge during the UFO crash in 1980. Basically, I was one of the original investigators involving Brenda Butler & Dot Street and an author called Jenny Randles who together wrote a book called Skycrash.

I am planning to return to Woodbridge in February to complete data for a new documentary on the Rendlesham UFO Crash, we have fresh evidence on the area(s) of the site and Col Charles Halt (USAF).

Anyone who might have any information relating to this event can contact me at 192 Booth Lane Middlewich, Cheshire CW10 0EF or phone 01606 737687. All information will be treated in the strictest of confidence. The author is an ex-serviceman who is still enclosed under the Official Secrets Act.

ERIC MORRIS, Middlewich Cheshire.

CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada - Feb. 18, 2004 CR: G. Conway

Strange lights in sky reported by resident

by BERNICE TRICK
Citizen staff

A local resident wants to know if anyone else has seen fast moving balls of fire in the sky above Prince George in recent months.

Lisa Hallam says she's witnessed the sight on three separate occasions — including Monday night — as well as Aug. 18 and Jan. 31.

"The first time I saw this intensely red ball of fire was last Aug. 18 above Punchaw Park, just off Ness Avenue where I live," said the 35-year-old Hallam, who's anxious to know if anyone else has seen the light.

"It moved up, left and right, sometimes hovered, and would disappear and then reappear a distance away. There was never any sound," said Hallam, describing the object's size as about four times the size of the brightest star in the sky.

"I knew it wasn't Mars because it was located behind me," said Hallam.

She said another strange thing at the time was the electronics in her home "started acting funny. We'd lose the TV signal and the screen would go green, and the VCR and DVD player turned themselves on and off," said Hallam, who's a CNC student.

"I saw the light again Jan. 31. I thought I was losing my mind, so thank goodness my mother saw it, too.

"(On Monday) night I was coming home about 6:30 p.m. along Rainbow Drive and there it was again, travelling northwest above Cranbrook Hill acting in the same manner as the

others. It moved pretty fast. It's so intensely red."

When Hallam reached home she continued to watch the sky, and said there were two other unique sites.

"Above Cranbrook Hill there was a circular shaped blue green hue that appeared both in front of and behind the clouds, and then I saw a long, rectangular hue of light-green light. It resembled the northern lights, but moved horizontally instead of up and down. My neighbour saw the bar-shaped hue, also."

That same day, Lisa's mother, Cheryl Hallam, said the electronics "went wonky" again.

Gil Self, vice-president of the Prince George Astronomical Society, said there has been no reports of the lights described by Hallam.

"Right now Venus is brilliant due to its location in its orbit high in the western sky. It sparkles like jewel," said Self, who said he never discredits reports by people, but instead, tries to explain the likely causes.

Self said there are many explanations for lights in the sky — refracted light from aircraft, electrical phenomenon in the sky, fireballs, meteorites, and electrical discharges from time to time.

UFO expert Brian Vike of Houston said: "I have no explanation for the sighting, but I'm going to check out a few things regarding it and a few more sightings in the Prince George area."

Vike can be contacted toll free at 1-866-262-1989.

CITIZEN, Prince George, B.C., Canada

Feb. 7, 2004 CR: G. Conway

Houston resident busy researching sightings in sky

by PAUL STRICKLAND
Citizen staff

A Houston man who researches celestial phenomena says a number of unexplained objects have appeared in the night sky over Prince George and the Northern Interior in recent years.

Brian Vike hopes local residents will phone his toll-free line, 1-866-262-1989, to report any unusual sightings.

Vike owns and operates HBCC UFO Research (HBCC stands for Houston, B.C., Canada), which he established in 2000. He says the number of reports of unexplained night-sky phenomena has increased dramatically since 2002.

"There is no doubt something is happening in our skies," he said. "Particularly in the last two months there have been a lot of strange things."

Vike said a Prince George resident reported a red ball of light just west of the city Jan. 30 around 9:30 p.m.

"The first time it rose from behind trees, and then it moved to the west and hovered above the trees," he said. "Afterwards it jumped higher quite suddenly, took off for the west and made a curving motion."

"She said that, being so close, they thought it might be a helicopter, but it made no noise," Vike said. Another resident called around the same time to report exactly the same phenomenon, he added.

Other Prince George residents saw a ball of light over the industrial area east of the downtown core the evening of Jan. 29. "It flew over and split in two," Vike said. "Each part went in a different direction."

This week a city resident near First and Tabor told The Citizen she and four friends saw two large orange objects in the northern night sky Jan. 31 around 10 p.m. After five or 10 minutes they moved slightly apart, one more slowly than the other. The first one disappeared fairly quickly into clouds afterwards, while the other moved out more slowly and faded off.

About a month and a half ago, Prince George residents phoned about a possible meteor, Vike said. "It was a really good fireball streaking across the sky just west of Prince," he said. "It was blue and left a long bright trail behind it. It lit up quite an area as it travelled through."

Another incident occurred in the city about a month ago. A resident was standing by the Future Shop looking west just after the sky had turned dark. For two minutes the resident saw a large flame, such as from a jet afterburn, but they didn't see any aircraft anywhere.

Last fall a Quesnel resident driving north towards Prince George saw an oval-shaped light from Highway 97 between the two communities.

"In the last while dozens of people in Prince George have seen unusual phenomena," he said.

Reports of sightings may also be faxed to Vike at (250) 845-2189 or e-mailed to hbccufo@telus.net.

ECHO, Dorset, England - March 24, 2004

GET ONLINE WITH THE DORSET ECHO: www.thisisdorset.net

Troggs' Reg to front UFO bash

By GILL JENKINS

and it changed his life forever. Through remarkable meetings with crop circle and UFO investigators, eyewitnesses, military personnel, scientists, astronomers and astronauts, among others, Reg was to discover a world beyond anything he had ever experienced.

"A world of strange patterns in corn fields, inexplicable craft shooting through our skies, of alien abduction, historical anomalies, suppressed information and of establishment denial and disinformation."

"Reg has spent the past 12 years questioning, conducting experiments, attending conferences, taking part in sky-watches, holding debates, analysing, testing, seeking

and researching. Tickets are available to see Reg and other speakers including Phillip Mantel with an Alien Autopsy Update, Busty Taylor with a talk which will examine whether there is a connection between unidentified flying objects and crop circles."

Mr Kingston, of Martins-town, will talk on the power of positive thought.

He said: "The annual Dorchester Conference on Unexplained Mysteries, covering topics such as UFOs, crop circles and government conspiracies has grown tremendously in popularity."

Tickets for the event, to be held in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester, on April 4 are now on sale, telephone 01305 830057, or write, enclosing an SAE, to 26 Rex Lane, Chickerell, Dorset, DT3 4AY.

UFO mystery on film

By Andrew Clarke, Arts Editor

FORGET *The X-Files*, Ipswich-based film and theatre company Red Rose Chain are currently developing a full length feature film of the alleged UFO encounter at RAF Woodbridge just after Christmas 1980.

Entitled *Eastgate*, after the base entrance which featured so heavily in the close encounter, the film has been in development for the last year. It started life as a piece of open-air theatre in Rendlesham Forest three years ago.

Director and co-writer Joanna Carrick said she immediately spotted the potential for a full-length feature film and has been seriously preparing it for the past 12 months.

Jo, producer David Newborn and the rest of Red Rose Chain have landed awards for their two short films which have also been adapted from their stage work. *Moving On Up*, shot in early 2000, told the tale of an adopted boy defying peer pressure to become a ballet dancer rather than join the Army. This was followed last year by *Valentine's Day*, a short film shot on 35mm, which explored the internal politics of a school which wanted to exclude a troubled boy for the duration of a visit by school inspectors but the boy's right to be in school was defended by his teacher Mr Valentine, played by Red Rose Chain regular Jimmy Grimes.

Producer and co-writer David Newborn said they had developed the synopsis and storyboards for the new film and were currently writing the first draft of the script. The expected budget for the movie will be in the region of £4 million. "It's a huge leap from a short film to a full blooded feature but its one we feel confident to make."

He said they were greatly heartened by the fact that the *Eastgate* film has been shortlisted for the prestigious



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Storyboards for *Eastgate*, a proposed film of a UFO incident in Rendlesham Forest Pictures: CONTRIBUTED

David Newborn, the film's producer, is delighted to have been singled out. "The application was a real team effort and being shortlisted has given the project a real boost. The UFO sightings have fascinated people for nearly 25 years and we believe the film could keep people talking about it for another 25".

The film focuses on the American air base at RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk and centres its plot around a Christmas dinner party, memories of past loves and stories of "strange

lights in the sky". If *Eastgate* is selected as one of the three competition winners, Red Rose Chain will receive development funding so that the company can complete the script and seek production funding for the film to become a lasting landmark for the East of England.

David Newborn added: "We will be approaching people like The Film Council and Working Title for the financing for the film. The fact that *Eastgate* was shortlisted for the Landmark East competition and

hopefully may even be the Landmark East project should help people invest in the film."

He said the film would be lighter in tone than their previous two works - both of which were directed by Jo Carrick and used professional crews.

"The central idea behind the film is why do people search for strange lights in the sky, why are we so fascinated by the idea of life on other planets and what our reactions would be if we finally got to meet people from another world."

STAR, St. Helens, England - Dec. 4, 2003

Did UFO land in Rainhill?

Story by ANDREW KILMURRAY

THE mystery surrounding an apparent sighting of a UFO above a power station 25 years ago deepened further this week when an amateur radio operator raised the possibility the 'light in the sky' actually landed in a local farmer's field.

Robert Bennett revealed how in January 1978 he sat for five hours in his living room with three policemen, listening over the wires as enthusiasts and police tracked the craft across St Helens.

He claims that from conversations he heard between officers in his Nutgrove home and those on the ground, the UFO actually landed on a field in Rainhill.

The 71-year-old came forward with his version of events after former St Helens journalist, Ian Brandes, wrote in the *Star* of how the mysterious sighting had recently been logged in a X-Files style police database.

Ian revealed how Detective Constable Gary Heseltine had officially entered the sighting above Bold Power Station in the Police Reporting UFO sightings logging system.

Hovered

The serving officer with the British Transport Police in the South of England, who founded the unique log, says the St Helens sighting is classed as a sighting of major "Defence Significance".

DC Heseltine even says there is excellent circumstantial evidence that the craft, said to have hovered over the power station before shooting away at speed, was a genuine UFO.

Now, 71-year-old Robert Bennett, a former maintenance worker at the old Varley's Foundry on Atlas Street, Fingerpost, has come forward to add his side of the story.



Radio ham reveals how he helped track 'alien craft' 25 years ago

Aged 46, back then, Mr Bennett says he was operating his radio when he picked up a message from the president of the Liverpool UFO society. The ET enthusiast asked Mr Bennett to phone the police and explain the goings on.

Mr Bennett, who was with wife Jean in his house, said: "With a bit of scepticism I phoned the St Helens police and told them I had just had a radio call about a UFO sighting. Everything went hush, hush on the phone and then they said they were sending someone up straight away."

"Three officers, one who I think was high-ranking, arrived at about 10.15pm and stayed until about 3am."

During the small hours he was instructed to relay messages to the radio amateurs chasing the craft, but also listened as police talked via radio with officers also on the object's trail.

He added: "From what I heard there were officers in the car trying to follow it and I believe it did land in a field in Rainhill and two police officers, a PC and a WPC were 20 yards away from it when it started to take off."

Mystery

The incident is now chronicled as No.44 in the database, that contains 84 official sightings of UFOs between 1950 and 2002.

However, what did hover above the power station that night still remains a mystery to the pensioner who says "he has no idea what it might have been". He says, though, that after 20 years he can finally tell the story that "died and heard nothing more of" without fear of people thinking he is "ready for the nuthouse".

Mystery of two 'UFO' sightings

by Teri Jones

LOOK deep into the night sky above Bolton and amid the stars and the moon you may spot something a little bit unusual...

Over the past month there have been two reported UFO sightings above Rivington and they have spooked the experts.

The Bolton UFO Society is appealing for people to report any unusual sightings.

On Wednesday at 8pm, a man saw an object in the sky above Rivington, between the Pike and the Chinese Gardens.

He was driving across Belmont and immediately contacted Phil Catterall, chair of the Horwich-based society, describing the object as two flying circles of light, one inside the other, rotating in opposite directions.

Four weeks ago a woman in Adlington reported seeing a similar sight over Winter Hill as she opened her bedroom curtains at 6.30am.

Mr Catterall said: "I have had sightings reported to me before in that area, but never like this. This is definitely different and I intend to look into it."

"The society has been going for about eight years and has had numerous sightings reported, especially in the Rivington and Winter Hill area, but most cases remain a mystery."

Anyone who has seen anything similar in recent weeks is asked to contact Phil Catterall at the Bolton UFO Society on 01204 699879.

Airport and military deny responsibility for giant triangular craft in skies



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Steve Culshaw near the site where he spotted a UFO on Sunday. Electronic wizardry by chief photographer Tony Clixby gives an impression of how the mystery object appeared. Picture by VICTORIA TETLEY VT02032004UFO-001

Mystery surrounds UFO sighting

by DAVID HOLMES chief reporter

IS it a bird? Is it a plane? Or is this UFO an alien craft which has picked up episodes of *Hollyoaks* and come to visit the real-life inhabitants?

Whatever the origins of the visual phenomenon, it was spotted in the skies above Blaenau by Steve Culshaw and his partner Erika about 11pm on Sunday.

Both describe it as a black triangle with white lights in each corner and a red light in the middle, which was just a few hundred feet up. The noise was like a loud drone unlike any normal aircraft sound.

The craft, which was said to look bigger than an airliner, came from the Runcorn direction, hovered over Blaenau, and then darted off towards Queensferry.

UFO experts say it bears a striking similarity to other sightings across the North West. They speculate it is an experimental military aircraft which is being kept under wraps.

Steve, who lives in Fowler Road, Blaenau, said: 'My girlfriend was in the kitchen. We were just going to go to bed and then she said 'Look at that huge star in the sky. It was way, way, in the distance. We were looking over towards Runcorn. It was sat there for ages.

I said 'I don't think that's a star.' It was too bright. The light was nearly touching the ground. Then it started to move and got closer and closer.

'I went outside into the back garden and it was 300ft above my head. I thought 'Oh my God'. I could see lots of lights. It went between the high rise blocks. It was a triangle shape with three lights - one in each corner - and a red one in the middle. It was making a humming noise. It went round the front of the house and then towards Queensferry.'

Mr Culshaw is under the flight path for Hawarden airfield, which was closed at the time, and sees lots of aircraft but does not believe this was a plane.

'No way. The shape was totally different. I see lots of planes coming over with lights. This was totally different,' said Mr Culshaw, although he admits at the time, the thought crossed his mind it could be a US Airforce Stealth aircraft.

Mr Culshaw, a volunteer at the Well Blaenau holistic therapy centre, said he was not frightened but 'fascinated' by what he saw.

'I was in the Army 24 years,' said Steve. 'I'm pretty grounded and I'm used to observing things. As it moved away it reminded me of a Stealth but it was

'I see lots of planes coming over with lights. I see the big Beluga. This was totally different'

STEVE CULSHAW

moving too slowly, unless they've got new technology which can make it hover.'

'The closest thing I can relate the noise to was in the Army. With radar we had silent generators to keep the noise down. It sounded a bit like that.'

His partner Erika Tetley said: 'I thought it was a star at first but it was massive and really low down.'

'I said "Come and look at this star, it's massive". Then it moved very, very slowly, next it started to speed up. It was really low and going over our heads.'

'I don't think it was an aeroplane. I've seen plenty of planes going to Aerospace but the shape was different, like a triangle, but the ends were not pointed but rounded.'

She said the pair of them must have watched the craft, which made a 'loud hum', for about 10 minutes in total.

UFO investigator Dave Sadler, an aircraft engineer at British Aerospace at Broughton who is also a leading member of the Para.Science organisation, believes the 'triangle' sighting was of a prototype military aircraft.

He said: 'It's not unusual in this area. I'm involved with UFO studies and within the North West, from Preston down to Manchester, there have been sightings, particularly in 1999 and 2000. I believe it's an experimental aircraft.'

Mr Sadler, who lives in Ellesmere Port, added: 'A similar issue came up with the Eurofighter. Back in the 90s nobody knew what it was.'

About six months ago he received reports of another triangular object, but without lights, which was spotted at Tarporley. He said the most recent report of a UFO prior to this was an unusual light over Pensby, Wirral, last Thursday.

An air traffic controller at Hawarden Airport dismissed the possibility the UFO was anything to do with them, explaining that the airfield had been closed from 4pm that day. He suggested: 'It could have been an optical illusion. You can get them at night. It could be an aircraft's headlights or something.'

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority, which regulates civilian flights, passed the enquiry onto his military colleagues.

He said: 'I'm only speculating but it sounds like an F117 Stealth fighter.' He said talk of experimental aircraft was 'fanciful'.

Ministry of Defence spokeswoman Caroline Edie said: 'I don't doubt what is being said. But at 23.00 on Sunday night I can be almost 99% positive it would not be a military aircraft.'

A US Airforce spokeswoman said: 'I checked with both bases and no-one was doing any night flying on Sunday at 23.00 on 29th February, so you can rule out the United States Airforce.'

Flash in sky sparks UFO theory

A CITY pensioner is hoping someone can shed light on a gigantic flash across the sky over his house which caused his radio to lose its channels.

John Reynolds, who lives in St John's with his wife Margaret, said he was stunned by the phenomenon, which happened at around 10pm on Wednesday evening.

'I was putting milk bottles out for the next morning, and I saw the whole sky light up like a gigantic explosion,' said the 63-year-old.

'I thought it was a bomb because it was so vivid, I've never seen anything like it before.'

'It lit up into a yellow colour like a sheet of lightning, but it was so white that I thought it wasn't lightning.'

'When I came back in the house my CD and radio player was going berserk, and we have now lost every channel on the radio.'

Mr Reynolds, who works as a printing

agent, said he saw a friend the following day who had a similar experience at his St John's home.

'He was in the shower at 10pm the same night and the water went off for a few seconds,' said the father of two.

'This man's central heating had a clock, which has now gone wrong.'

Thunder

Worcester police said they had not had any calls reporting unusual lights over St John's.

Evening News weatherman, Paul Damari said there was no thunder and lightning in the area at the time.

'No-one has reported anything unusual to me,' he said.

Michael Soper, spokesman for Contact International, which collects and analyses data on UFO and crop circle reports, said he had no idea what could have caused the gigantic flash, and did not class the incident as a UFO sighting.

'If there had been several flashes I would have wondered if it was a covert signalling system,' he said.

■ Did you see anything on Wednesday night? Perhaps you have a suggestion as to what the light might have been. If you have, contact the newsroom on 01905 742256 or alternatively e-mail: ef@thisisworcester.co.uk

CONTACT POINT

Have you seen a UFO above Blaenau or anywhere else? You can contact us in a number of ways.

☎ PHONE: Chester Newsdesk on 01244 606416.

✉ FAX: 01244 606498

✉ EMAIL: newsroom@cheshirenews.co.uk

✉ POST: Chester Newsdesk, The Chronicle, Chronicle House, Commonhall Street, Chester CH1 2AA.

Alternatively you can visit our website at cheshireonline.co.uk where you can post messages on our message board that will also be passed on to the newsdesk.

by TONY RICHARDSON

Herald Reporter

THE Herald has been inundated with calls from Plymouthians claiming to have spotted UFOs after seeing yesterday's stunning pictures of a strange phenomenon in the sky above St Budeaux.

People rang to report their close encounters with unexplained lights and flying objects; some from up to 20 years ago - others spotted just this week.

Student Paul Burt, from Lower Compton, was astonished yesterday when an early morning call of nature turned into a close encounter of the first kind.

"It was about 5.30am and I was on my way to the toilet," said Paul.

"Out of the stairway window I saw this weird light up in the sky, which stopped me dead in my tracks. As I watched, it suddenly changed colour and shot upwards. Then it kind of erupted and sprayed out all different colours.

"I don't know what I saw, but aeroplanes and helicopters just don't do that."

And postman Robert Buckham, from Laira, reported seeing a bright white light making its way across the sky above Plymouth Sound during his round on Tuesday morning.

"It was about 3.50am," he said. "It seemed to have a tail, and it was travelling really fast."

The amazing images which have captured the public imagination were captured accidentally by amateur photographer John Nicholls when he was trying out his new digital camera. He took the pictures

Strange sightings above city skyline

from an upstairs window of his home in St Budeaux.

Yesterday Mr Nicholls, 52, told the Herald: "I always thought people who saw UFOs were a bit loopy. I see things differently now and I keep finding myself looking up at the sky.

"At first I was a bit nervous about people thinking I was strange. But I can't help what appeared in the picture."

Bob Boyd, chairman of the Plymouth UFO Research Group, described Mr Nicholls's photograph as 'one of the five best I've seen in 25 years'. Yesterday he told the Herald: "This is going to be a famous image!"

But UFO expert Dr David Clarke, who writes a UFO column for the Fortean Times magazine, said: "People have an image of UFOs in their heads from TV and films, so when they see anything odd on film they jump to conclusions. Digital cameras are known for conjuring up strange images. That, combined with the fact this man didn't see anything at the time, makes me a little suspicious."

POST, Yorkshire, England - March 10, 2004

UFO magazine folds after editor's death

Dave Clarke

A YORKSHIRE-based magazine devoted to Unidentified Flying Objects and extraterrestrial life is to close after the sudden death of its editor.

Graham Birdsall, a world authority on UFOs, died aged 49 in St James's Hospital, Leeds, last September from a brain haemorrhage after he was taken ill at his home in Colton, east Leeds. He left a wife and three daughters.

With younger brother Mark he founded in the early 1980s the news stand magazine empire, based at Stourton in south Leeds, which published *UFO Magazine*.

The magazine went on to become the world's best-selling UFO publication, with a readership measured in the tens of thousands. It also staged an annual conference in Leeds.

Mr Birdsall became fascinated by UFOs in 1967 when as a boy he saw a strange object in the sky from the garden of his home in Leeds.

He travelled the world lec-



Graham Birdsall: World authority on UFOs.

turing on the subject to enthusiasts and frequently appeared on TV to discuss the latest sightings.

The family continued to publish the magazine after his death with help from his son-in-law Russell Callaghan, who took over as editor.

But yesterday Mr Birdsall's widow Christine announced that the latest issue of the magazine, produced by Quest Publications International Ltd, would be the last.

TRANSLATIONS

[The following translations are all courtesy of Scott Corrales and the Institute for Hispanic Ufology, with translation copyright being retained. Credit for individual contributors will be given at the end of each article. All articles are from South American and other Spanish-language newspapers and media sources.]

March 19, 2004 — *Extra*, San Jose, Costa Rica — CHUPACABRAS EXSANGUINATES HENS IN SAN RAMON — Several groups of dead hens were bled dry in the backyard of the Rodriguez household. A nocturnal Chupacabras attack took place last Tuesday night in a chicken coop owned by Gonzalo Rodriguez of San Juan de San Ramon, Ajuela Province, Costa Rica.

Nearly 20 beautiful, plump hens--the type that takes pride in laying large eggs--were found dead and without a trace of blood, bearing twin puncture marks on their backs. The birds were completely dry.

It was late at night when Rodriguez heard strange noises and a ruckus coming from the henhouse on his property--a commotion that was far from being normal. He decided to send his son to check with a flashlight to make sure thieves weren't at work.

The youth obeyed his father and, flashlight in hand, approached the large henhouse stealthily, becoming terrified upon seeing a strange black animal, standing some 40 cm. tall and resembling a small dog with a long tail and standing on two legs. He recalls, among what little he was able to see through the flashlight's beam, that the animal had a very long tongue. Upon seeing the light, the creature fled into the vegetation, skillfully leaping over a wall.

An inspection of the henhouse revealed that twenty hens had been slain. Police authorities of the nearby town of San Ramon were notified and officer Marcos Hernandez reported to the scene to corroborate not only Gonzalo Rodriguez's account, but the testimony of frightened neighbors.

The officer was able to ascertain that several "bunches" of dead hens lay near the property's fence. The birds were whole and the only sign of damage to them were the two small holes on its back, through which it is presumed that the strange assailant drove its fangs to remove or suck their blood.

Witnesses immediately ascribed the blame for the chicken slayings to the legendary, sinister and mysterious creature known throughout Mesoamerica as the Chupacabras.

What occurred two nights ago at the Rodriguez henhouse was immediately associated with an earlier, similar event, in which dead sheep had been found with the same characteristics: twin puncture marks on their necks or back and not a single drop of blood.

Two days ago, at the same site and to eliminate any questions, Luis Morun and Luis Angulo, neighbors of the Rodriguez family, butchered each of the animals to insure that the birds were totally dry and without a drop of blood.

Neighbors have rejected the possibility that a weasel, wolf or hen-killing predator such as a fox could be involved. What startled them most is that formerly one or two hens would vanish--now twenty did so at the same time. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

March 22, 2004 — *La Manana*, Cordoba, Argentina — ARGENTINA: THE MONTE MAIZ PHANTOM — [Note: students of ufology may recognize Monte Maiz as the scene of the Eugenio Douglass CE3K some 40 years ago, one of the most spectacular cases in South American saucer lore. There are certain points of contact between the following story and "Springheel Jack" events --SC]

A silhouette of a man who walks on rooftops, drags heavy chains and makes strange noises turned into a disquieting "phantom" that has made residents of Monte Maiz restless. As is common in these cases, the accounts of those who claim having seen or heard this ghostly shade, spread by word of mouth and eventually reach local police authorities without the persons who claim having undergone the experience ever being identified. Opinions on the phantom are diametrically opposed, since some claim having seen "a figure standing over 2 meters tall, dressed in black and with spectacular agility" while others say it's all imagination. Journalist Carlos Maldoni has not hesitated to say that the culprit "is a foolish or stupid person in disguise, with a face mask, red eyes and white cape over his shoulders, who ventures out at night to terrify women living alone." Police authorities, in any event, are patrolling the streets and listening to the stories of the terrified residents.

The peace of this 9000-inhabitant locality in the department of Union was interrupted in the past three weeks by a strange creature who wanders the night to terrify residents. It is seen in outlying neighborhoods close to the city limits, where people wait for sunset to shut themselves in their homes under lock and key.

The residents call it "the phantom." Those who have seen it say that it is a young person, very tall and slim, with red eyes. It dresses in white, sometimes black and others grey. Always wears a hat and covers its face with a mask or hood.

The sounds on the rooftops begin after 21:00 hours, as do the calls to the police. Residents claim that it walks on the roof, shuffles and runs, drags chains, scratches at windows and bangs at doors. It doesn't speak or yell--it has only been heard to laugh in the dark or whistle; some claim having heard it imitate the howling of a dog.

One of the characteristics that locals agree on is the creature's agility. "They say it runs swiftly and jumps over barbed wire fencing and walls without touching them," according to concerned neighbors. Its agility has made law enforcement's tasks all the harder, since the person runs and vanishes into the pastures surrounding the town. Police say it appears to have no intention to commit burglary--only to frighten. "It's a sick person that's causing residents of Monte Maiz to lose their sleep," said Sheriff Jorge Vivas.

The sheriff added: "Given its m.o., we suspect [the phantom] to be two youths with a thorough knowledge of the town and the community. [The phantom] moves very quickly and can be in two different neighborhoods within minutes. It knows which homes to upset and chooses those with single women."

In Monte Maiz, the popular imagination is fed hourly with a new story and a different version of the events. There is talk of a phantom, supernatural doings and special powers are ascribed to the person. The lack of answers from the police has fed the legend.

Police units scoured the area at night and reconnoitered the outlying neighborhoods. Since the police force is small, they have had collaboration from municipal workers and volunteer firemen. Neighborhood watch groups have also formed to spend the nights awake waiting for "the phantom" to appear. They sally forth with clubs and some weapons, which is of concern to policemen. They spend the nights awake defending their homes.

Eyewitness accounts follow:

Ivana Molina: "I went out to the yard and saw a man dancing, whistling and slapping his hands. The neighbors heard similar noises. The next day, I went out and the same man tried to grab me. I ran into the house and phoned the police. It banged on our bedroom window and wrote 'mueres' ['you will die'] with its finger."

Oscar Gonzalez: "I was standing in the yard and saw a shadow walking along. I could see its red eyes. We went out with another fellow to find it and [the phantom] jumped into the neighbor's yard. It was dressed in white. On the following day it whistled at us again. We went out to chase it and it vanished."

Veronica Bertrando: "My husband saw it as it crossed the patio. He says it was dressed in grey with a hood over its head. When it went by, the dog barked, my husband went outside and it took off running. He tried to find it, but couldn't find it. [The phantom] hides in such a way that no one can find it."

In a report to Radio Mitre in the city of Buenos Aires, Sheriff Vivas reported that the alleged phantom has the following characteristics:

- 1.8 to 1.9 meters tall
- dresses in black
- white face (possibly a mask)
- black hat (some describe it as a gaucho hat)
- movements are generally silent
- extreme agility: jumps over fences, walls and climbs up trees with ease--normally appears between 21:30 and 03:00 hours

CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

March 22, 2004 — <http://www.tabascohooy.com.mx/th/nuevo/notas/notas.php?nid=48102> — ARGENTINA: UFO OVER THE RIVER PLATE — An unidentified flying object that "shone and swirled" hovered for a few minutes on the early hours of Monday morning over the waters of the River Plate (Rio de la Plata) not far from this city, according to the Argentinean Air Force (AAF) based on several accounts from eyewitnesses who phoned in their reports.

Commodore Guillermo Losada, the press officer of said force, underlined that "several phone calls" were received which alerted the presence of this UFO. He added that its existence could not be officially confirmed "through the air traffic controllers (of the metropolitan airport) or through any pilot testimony," since there were no flights in the vicinity at the time.

"There has apparently been some sort of sighting, but we cannot confirm the type of object seen," added Losada in a press conference.

Losada noted that the eyewitness testimony "drew our attention" and added that "one must never dismiss out of hand what might prove to be a phenomenon worthy of study."

"The locals coincided in that it was a shining, swirling flying object that remained thus for several minutes before vanishing," added the spokesman. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

March 23, 2004 — *Indnoticias.com* — ARGENTINA: UFO OVER BUENOS AIRES — An Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) was reported this morning in the vicinity of the coastal highway of the Argentinean capital. Several eyewitnesses claim having seen a luminous object that changed colors incessantly and flew over the River Plate (Rio de la Plata). This object was followed by a second one that vanished a few seconds

later. Subsequently, witnesses claimed having seen it over the town of Moron. (LND Noticias) — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

March 28, 2004 — *Fundacion Cosmos, A.C.* — STRANGE FORMATIONS FOUND IN NUEVO LEON [Mexico] FIELDS — According to information published in the State edition of the *Reforma* newspaper on March 26, 2004, some strange crop formations were found in fields near the city of Cadereyta in the state of Nuevo Leon.

Up to now we have only had knowledge of the event. However, the details will be made known shortly, since upon observing the photo appearing in the newspaper, we realized that the depressed areas are very similar to the ones appearing in British fields and whose formation and design is extraordinarily beautiful. No definite contour can be appreciated in these strange markings, but the fact remains that they are very similar to the ones recorded in other parts of our country in early 2003, such as Los Mochis, Ciudad Obregon and the state of Morelos.

We shall be on the lookout for any new developments in these formations, which have startled farmers in the locality of Cadereyta. — CREDIT: Marco Reynoso, *Fundacion Cosmos*

March 29, 2004 — <http://www.eladelanto.com/noticias/noticia.asp> — THEOLOGY SEES E.T. LIFE AS COMPATIBLE WITH GOD — Vicente Chafer says it would be an error to believe that we are alone — Theology considers the existence of extraterrestrial life and Biblical doctrine as being compatible, said theologian Vicente Chafer yesterday.

According to his theory, "it would be a delusion of grandeur to think that we are alone in the universe," adding that the Bible "already speaks of other inhabited worlds, but does not explain them as it is centered on terrestrial life."

Chafer has adapted Catholic doctrine to scientific and space discoveries having to do with the universe and acknowledges the existence of over "200,000 galaxies, each containing over 100,000 suns. We are but a mote of dust in this immensity," he says.

MATHEMATICS: By sheer probability calculations it would be safer to think that there is life on other planets than to state the contrary, but until now, the closest thing to evidence which allows for this hypothesis is the UFO phenomenon. Chafer points out that an advanced civilization equipped with spacecraft enabling it to cross intergalactic distances (the nearest star to our own is four years away traveling at the speed of light -- 300,000 kilometers per second) "wouldn't trouble itself to fly by, create uncertainty and vanish without further ado." Furthermore -- according to his beliefs -- the devil and sin are confined to the Earth, while the rest of the worlds would be free of both, as the Bible states. Therefore, such beings would not be interested in contacting us, if only to avoid "contagion."

These reasons lead Chafer to believe that most UFO sightings and manifestations are false, and only 20 per cent of them deserve further study. But he cuttingly declares that said beings would not be from another planet, and that their existence would be better justified believing in the figure of the devil, who has created them "to give us the hope that UFOs will take us to other, uncontaminated worlds rather than believing in the gospel of Christ."

The theologian is convinced that pure souls now dwelling in Catholic heaven shall return to Earth when the presence of both sin and the devil have been removed, since the former "no longer has access to other worlds." — CREDIT: Jose I. Gomez

April 7, 2004 — *ElDiario*, Parana, Province of Entre Rios, Argentina — IS THE CHUPACABRAS ON THE PROWL AGAIN? — **The legend of the infamous Chupacabras has reappeared once more in Entre Rios, and this time close to our city, San Benito** — Police sources said yesterday that last Saturday, the sheriff's office of the neighboring community was visited by a farmer from the rural area who identified himself as Emilio Fernando Kint, 59, who stated that on that day he had noticed one of his animals was missing. Immediately, he went in search of the stray bovine and found it lying in a thicket.

Upon approaching it to see what was wrong, he found that his animal was missing a left eye, hide and flesh in a 5 centimeter circumference around its belly. What startled the farmer the most was the absence of blood on the animal and anywhere in the vicinity. Kint stated that he called a private veterinarian who visited the site and attested to the missing organs, but who was otherwise unable to offer an explanation for the animal's death.

During his exposition, the farmer also mentioned that a few nights ago he had seen strange lights in the firmament, precisely over the place where he found the animal. He added that not far from there he found a large circle of flattened grass whose cause was unknown. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

CREDIT: Esen Sekerkarar

April 1, 2004 — *Milliyet*, Istanbul, Turkey — "Official" Eyes Saw the UFO — Governor Deputy of Adana who recorded the strange luminous object on the video camera was told: "What you have seen is a UFO."

Caner Yildiz, Governor Deputy of Adana, had the strange sighting he made the other night while he was watching TV at his home, studied by Sirius UFO Space Sciences Research Centre's staff. Organisation's chairman Haktan Akdogan stated that they concluded the object as being a UFO and said "Our friends have studied Mr. Yildiz's footage and it has been agreed to be a UFO."

University will study

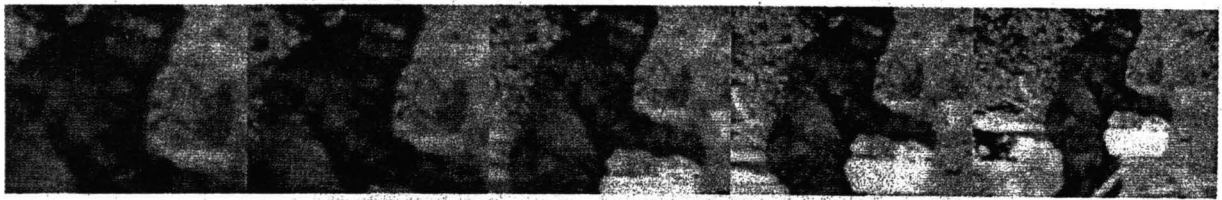
Caner Yildiz, who has served previously as Governor Deputy of Istanbul, Chairman of Istanbul Disaster Administration Centre, Governor Deputy of Kocaeli, stated that he has not given the footage to anyone and he wants to have it studied by the Cukurova University expert board.

We contacted Mr. Yildiz on the telephone and he stated as follows, saying that he and his wife saw a very bright object in the sky the other night while they were watching TV: "It was about 21.04. I saw a luminous object in the sky. First I thought it was a bright star that I had never seen before, then I started to record it on my camera. I recorded it for about 20 minutes. It was moving very fast, sometimes zigzagging, becoming bigger and smaller. The bottom part, about one third of the object was dark in colour, yet the upper part was white. On its top were sharp projecting points which resembled honeycombs. It was something that we have never seen before and we could not identify it. It would disappear when observed with the naked eye then would appear again. On the camera, it would look as small as a pin top, then in 2-3 seconds it would grow as big as an orange. It looked like a flying saucer."

Mr. Yildiz said that he was visited yesterday by people from Sirius "UFO Research Centre" and stated as follows: "Sirius's staff came and they studied 'the footage.' They said that it was not a satellite or a meteorological object. They think it is a UFO. Now the footage will be studied by Cukurova University."



DISPATCH, Columbus, OH - March 30, 2004 CR: J. Fry



The most famous "evidence" of Bigfoot's existence is one minute of grainy film shot by Roger Paterson in Bluff Creek, Calif., in 1967.

Bigfoot!

(little evidence)

A legend fueled by folk tales, sightings and footprints defies skeptics' scorn

By Mike Lafferty
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

NEWCOMERSTOWN, Ohio — Each spring, talk around town strays from farm prices, shooting muskrats and how luck is treating the Newcomerstown High School Trojans. This time of year belongs to Bigfoot. About 200 Bigfoot fanatics from across Ohio and neighboring states will invade this Tuscarawas County village at 4 p.m. Saturday to swap "facts" and stories at the civic center. Though Newcomerstown is not prime Bigfoot territory, it is home to Don Keating, *true believer*. Keating, who has hosted the annual convention for 16 years, thinks he

came face to face with Bigfoot in September 1985, 4 miles south of town. "Sometimes I wish I hadn't seen it," he said. "It would make my life a whole lot easier."

Proof, schmoof

Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti, the Abominable Snowman, Yowie Man. Pick a name.

The legend of Bigfoot is fueled by thousands of eyewitness stories, a steady stream of tabloid articles and Web sites. Lots of Web sites.

The subject, however, largely is disdained by science.

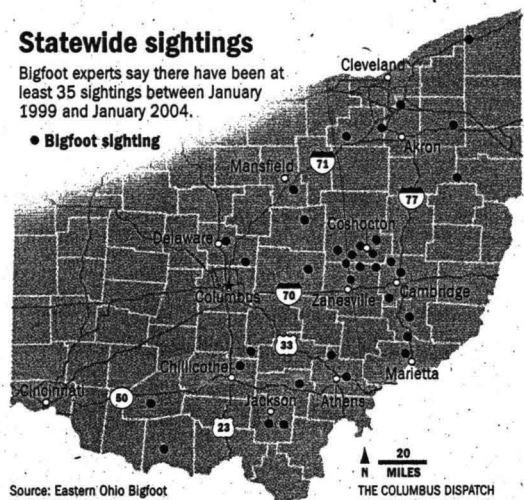
"Most academics are doubters," said

See **BIGFOOT** Page A5

Statewide sightings

Bigfoot experts say there have been at least 35 sightings between January 1999 and January 2004.

• Bigfoot sighting



"I'm not insane. I know what I saw. Once you see something like this you never forget it."

Don Keating, Bigfoot enthusiast



Don Keating says he came face to face with Bigfoot in this field near Newcomerstown. Keating says he was too shocked to take a photo. (continued on page 18)

Allen gives new boost to search for aliens

Millions donated for new telescope

BY SANDI DOUGHTON
Seattle Times staff reporter

The Seattle billionaire who is building a sci-fi museum complete with Capt. Kirk's chair is now giving a new boost to the search for intelligent life in the universe.

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen is donating \$13.5 million to help build a radio telescope that will scan up to a million stars for any glimmer of civilization.

"Obviously, if you could discover a signal, that would be one of the breakthroughs of all time," said Allen, who is credited with saving the search for alien life when NASA yanked funding in the early 1990s.

"The subject of a lot of science fiction is actual contact with alien races, and, of course, all that is very special and fun to me," he said yesterday.

But even if ET never phones, the Allen Telescope Array will expand the frontiers of astronomy, allowing researchers to study quasars, cosmic explosions and the birth of stars with greater flexibility than ever before, Allen said. "We can get a lot of bang for our research buck," said the philanthropist, who is adding a science-fiction wing to his Experience Music Project at Seattle Center.

His funding comes at a time when interest in extraterrestrial life is growing and the field of astrobiology, once dismissed as crackpot, is gaining respectability.

The NASA rovers on Mars are beaming back daily evidence that the Red Planet may once have been hospitable to life.

The Allen telescope will accelerate the search for aliens, scanning the heavens 300 times faster than any previous instrument and reaching farther into space, said Jill Tarter, research director for the SETI Institute and one of the inspirations for the character Jodie Foster played in the movie "Contact." (The institute's initials stand for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.)

"We'll get to explore more of the galaxy at much greater speed," she said. "And we'll be able to use the telescope 24 hours a day, seven days a week right from the start."

In the past, Tarter and her fellow alien-stalkers had to compete for time on one of the handful of large radio telescopes around the world. Even those limited efforts were threatened when Congress objected to the use of taxpayers' money to search for what some members called "little green men," but Allen stepped in with \$3 million in the early 1990s to save the program.

SETI recently completed a nine-year study to scan about 750 nearby stars. With the new telescope, it should be possible to scan up to a million stars in a decade — the same time period, Tarter said.

But first, SETI and its partner, the Radio Astronomy Lab at the University of California, Berkeley, must find other private donors to ante up more than \$30 million more to complete the array of needed radio dishes.

(continued on page 19)

retired Ohio State University anthropologist Frank Poirier, who has examined some evidence, mostly footprints, and come away unimpressed.

All the same, Poirier, who now lives in Florida, acknowledges the power and veracity of folk tales, especially Northwest Indian yarns of a huge ape-man that stalks the mountains.

"A lot of folklore is based in reality," he said. "The gorilla started out in folklore, and scientists refused to believe it existed until the early 1900s."

Still, how has a 10-foot-tall, 500-pound hairy humanoid with 8-inch-wide feet managed to stay hidden all these years?

OK, so Bigfoot has been spotted in every state except Hawaii and Rhode Island, according to the Bigfoot Researchers Organization.

In Ohio, it has supposedly frightened hikers in 53 counties.

Another nagging question is why, like flying saucers, has no one ever taken a sharp, clear picture of one? (However, one Louisiana Bigfoot Web site features a sharp photograph of the beast's poop.)

Although believers continue to hunt for proof, many say they don't need to capture Bigfoot to know it exists. It is, they say, what it is.

Scared stiff

Just where would a Bigfoot hide? Keating doesn't know.

Though he was armed with a camera when he supposedly spotted one, he was shocked to his marrow and never thought to snap a picture.

It was about 10 p.m. when Keating drove to a farmhouse after a resident reported hearing a strange wailing.

Something had broken into a chicken coop and killed all of the birds. He said the resident, an experienced hunter, was terrified.

That night, Keating brought two others with him, armed with a camera and a tape recorder. On it, they played a tape of a sound they thought Bigfoot might respond to.

"We didn't get a yell, but we definitely got one to come down the side of the hill," Keating said.

The experience still haunts him.

One of the trackers was atop a nearby barn. Keating and the other man were on the ground — all three heard crashing sounds that got closer and closer. Keating said the next thing he knew, he was staring at a large, hairy creature that stood about 75 feet away.

"It was white and about 9 feet tall. It stuck out like a sore thumb."

Keating said his companion on the ground was too afraid to look.

Dick Francis of Twinsburg was the man on the barn roof.

"I heard something coming down the hill. It could have been a deer, a bear. It was definitely something large. I heard high-pitched screams, low moaning sounds."

But he didn't see anything.

Whatever it was, it rushed away, uphill through the field.

Keating did not chase it.

"Until then I didn't quite believe in Bigfoot," he said.

Keating returned the next day and examined the smashed undergrowth that he said marked Bigfoot's romp.

He didn't stop there. On weekends, he



FILE PHOTO

Roger Paterson, who shot the 1967 film, compares his foot to that of a cast taken of a footprint he claims is Bigfoot's. Some call the film a hoax, but none have proved it is.

took to searching other areas, even hiring the occasional pilot to take him aloft.

Francis also continued the hunt for a few years but has since stopped.

"There's too much fakery going on," he said.

Manmade fibers have been hoked up to look like fur. Transmission fluid has been offered up as Bigfoot blood.

The rest has been inconclusive, said Ben Radford, managing editor of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine.

"They have turned up hair, blood samples, tracks," Radford said. "They've turned up a butt print."

"In all these, all the evidence is amazing in its consistency in that it's ambiguous and doesn't lead anywhere."

Though University of Idaho biologist Jeff Meldrum agrees, he said there is something to the old folk tales, sightings and especially the prints.

"I've seen enough that are so compelling and so credible, in any other context no one would claim a hoax," said Meldrum, an expert in how primates walk.

Preaching to the choir

At least once a month, Keating hikes through the local woods and hosts a study group.

"There's a big difference between faking footprints and actually seeing the thing," he said. "I'm not insane. I know what I saw. Once you see something like this, you never forget it."

Despite highly organized hunting bands equipped with night scopes and infrared cameras, "proof" of Bigfoot is limited to smudgy, blurry, grainy photos; a bunch of plaster casts of footprints; and some dubious items, including the mangled remains of rabbits and other small animals.

The hunt has attracted a few scientists.

Grover Krantz, a scientist at Washington State University in Pullman, was the most prominent Bigfoot proponent until his death. Krantz was succeeded by Meldrum, who in addition to his research has had his own brush with Bigfoot.

About six years ago, some kind of bi-

ped rifled through a backpack at his campsite in northern California.

"By the time we unzipped (the tent flap) and climbed out in the night, it slipped back into the fog," he said.

Bears, he added, don't do well with clasps.

"This thing left a 16-inch impression in the grass," Meldrum said.

W. Henner Fahrenbach, a zoologist from Beaverton, Ore., provided hair samples to Ohio State University researchers in 1995.

The hair, it was said, was left on a bush by a Bigfoot spotted by two forest rangers.

"We got 12 strands of hair but were never able to get usable results," said OSU geneticist Paul Fuerst. "We were frustrated, but not surprised."

The only real insight for Fuerst was the clear notion that he needed to get out of Bigfoot research.

News of his tests traveled quickly through mainstream and tabloid media.

"I was on a roller coaster for months," he said.

"I was completely unprepared for the amount of passion from people from this area on the edge of science."

For Fuerst, the quest was an attempt to shed light on a legitimate scientific question. There's no reason why, he said, an intelligent hairy ape-man could not have evolved.

"Over the past 100 years we know there are a number of mammalian species that have been discovered that were unknown before."

Still, Fuerst said he wished he never got involved.

"I didn't want to do Bigfoot again."

Bomb scares

Few academics are willing to take up Bigfoot investigations, Poirier said, because they face ridicule from their peers.

"It ruined (Krantz's) scientific career," he said.

Poirier experienced the full brunt of Bigfoot passion after he expressed his own disbelief.

"I was adamant against the Bigfoot thing," he said. "This guy in Washington threatened my life."

OSU police opened his packages for a year.

But while Poirier dismisses Bigfoot and Sasquatch as legend, he takes more seriously the historic reports of hairy humanlike creatures in China, India and Vietnam.

In Asia, reports of large apelike creatures known as Yeren go back a long way. In China, Poirier collected folk tales and interviewed people who said they had seen the Yeren.

Also, there is scientific evidence of a huge ape — *Gigantopithecus* — that lived between 500,000 and 5 million years ago. The extinct ape could be the evolutionary relative of Yeren.

Poirier, however, said if there are Yeren in China, they are not related to Bigfoot.

"A lot of people want to lump it all together," he said.

And every new sighting adds fuel to the fire.

"This is a story that will never die," Poirier said.

The Tri-State Bigfoot Study Group will host the 16th Annual Bigfoot Conference Saturday from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the David Barber Civic Center, 1066 E. State Street in Newcomertown. The event is open to the public without charge. mlafferty@dispatch.com

"Sometimes I wish I hadn't seen it. It would make my life a whole lot easier."

Don Keating
true believer

"All the evidence is amazing in its consistency in that it's ambiguous and doesn't lead anywhere."

Ben Radford
Skeptical Inquirer magazine

"I was completely unprepared for the amount of passion from people from this area on the edge of science."

Paul Fuerst
OSU geneticist



ABOVE: An artist's rendering of the elusive beast

RIGHT: A plaster cast of a supposed Bigfoot footprint shows where the creature got its name. Keating made the cast in Tuscarawas County.



FILE PHOTO

(continued from page 18 - TIMES, Seattle, WA - March 19, 2004)

Mounted atop a remote lava bed in Northern California, the Allen Telescope Array will be made up of 350, 20-foot radio dishes hooked together electronically to form the equivalent of a giant telescope. Three dishes are already built and have been tested over the past two years, thanks to an earlier gift of \$11.5 million from Allen.

Originally conceived as a cheaper instrument that would focus strictly on the hunt for ET, the Allen telescope's scientific breadth has been expanded to attract the interest of other researchers and possible donors, Tarter added.

Alien hunters search for radio signals because they believe any civilization trying to make contact would probably send out a radio beacon, said University of Washington astronomy professor Woodruff Sullivan.

And it might also be possible to detect radio signals that leak into space from an inhabited planet, even if its inhabitants are not deliberately reaching out.

Because of its unique design and state-of-the-art electronics, the Allen Telescope Array will offer astronomers a wider view of these events than conventional radio telescopes — while simultaneously searching for alien beacons, said Leo Blitz, director of the Radio Astronomy Lab.

Tarter hopes the Allen telescope also will help inspire the next generation of SETI scientists.

"You could say we've hardly begun to search," she said. "We're looking for a needle in a cosmic haystack that's vast indeed."

Sandi Doughton: 206-464-2491 or sdoughton@seattletimes.com

DAILY PRESS, Tahlequah, OK - March 2, 2004

Strange creature sighted... maybe

■ This is the first in a two-part series on "strange sightings" in Cherokee County.

By EDDIE GLENN
Press Staff Writer

First of all, let's be very clear about one thing: This is the Tahlequah Daily Press, not the Weekly World News. So we're not going to tell you that Osama Bin Laden and Elvis are both alive and well, and living in the woods of Pumpkin Hollow, just a few miles outside our fair city of Tahlequah.

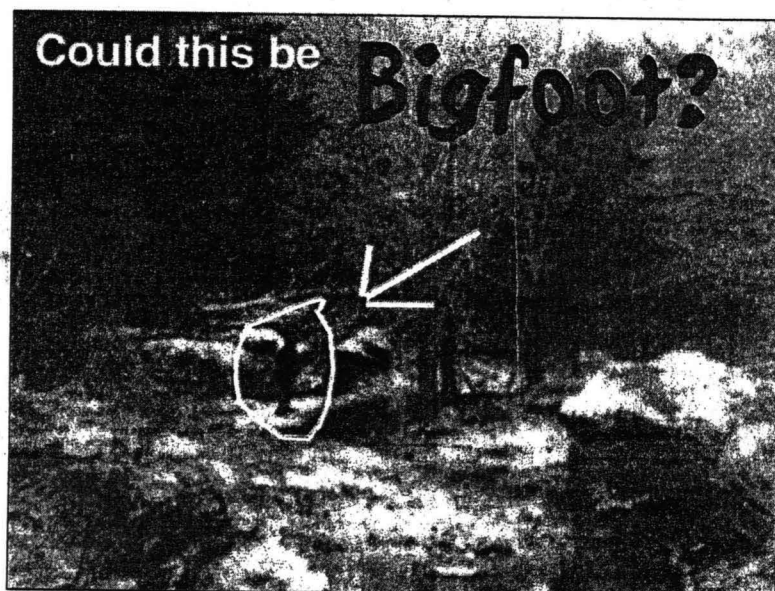
Bigfoot, on the other hand, might be.

Several weeks ago, a young Tahlequahian who shall remain anonymous for the time being gave a photo to a Daily Press editorial staff member.

He said his mother had shot the photo in the Pumpkin Hollow area, and that it plainly showed what could only be identified as Bigfoot him/herself, right smack-dab in the middle of the picture.

Learn more

The official Web site of the Bigfoot Researchers Organization is www.bfro.net. The page explaining the 1990 Eldon Hill sightings is www.bfro.net/gdb/show_report.asp?id=2041.



Here he is, in all his splendor! It may or may not be Bigfoot, but there is definitely a black thing that appears to be standing on a rock in the center of this creekbed, which according to the photographer's son, is in Pumpkin Hollow.

After some investigation, we have to admit that the aberration in the photograph — while not clearly identifiable as Bigfoot — isn't really identifiable as anything besides Bigfoot either.

Of course, it could be a scratch on the lens of a camera, or a speck of dust on the film, or any number of other technical explanations.

But we can't completely rule out the possibility that it just might, maybe — within the realm of all possibilities — really be a hairy, upright-walking creature that is commonly known as "Bigfoot."

If it isn't Bigfoot in the picture, what the heck — no harm done.

But if it is Bigfoot, or a variant thereof, it wouldn't be the first one

sighted in these parts.

According to the Aug. 3, 1990, edition of the Tahlequah Daily Press, a Bigfoot sighting on the east side of Eldon Hill was reported to the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office on Aug. 1 of that year.

"We kind of shook our heads when we got the call, but the lady

sounded serious," Jack Goss, then an investigator with the CCSO, is reported as saying. "She said Bigfoot was in her back yard. We thought she might have seen a bear, but she was really sure that it wasn't. She said it was hairy and stank really bad."

The story also cites then-and-now Cherokee County Undersheriff Dan Garber, who said several residents in the area had reported similar sightings, and that several calves and sheep had been reported missing in the area.

"I've known other areas to get calls like this, but this is the first time we've heard anything like this in Cherokee County," Garber said in the 1990 story.

On Monday this week, Garber said he remembered that incident fairly well. "It caused quite a commotion for about a week," he said. "The people from the national Bigfoot organization called up and said, 'If you hear of any other sightings, let us know.'"

The national organization to which Garber referred is the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, and according to their Web site, the 1990 Eldon incident is a "Class A" sighting. According to that Web site: "Class A reports involve clear sightings, in circumstances where misinterpretation or misidentification of other animals can be ruled out with greater confidence. There are few footprint cases that are very well-documented. Those are considered Class A reports as well, because misidentification of common animals can be confidently ruled out, thus the potential for misinterpretation is very low."

The Web site states that Cherokee County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Weavel investigated the sighting, and found foot impressions big enough to place both his feet in. It also states that two days after the initial report, an 8-year-old girl and her mother described a similar creature rummaging through a trash pile near their house.

"Their dog chased it but

returned with its tail between its legs. The creature was described as 8 feet tall with dark brown frizzy hair and similar to a bear, except that it was described as walking upright," states the BFRO report.

Since 1990, there haven't been any other sightings — until now.

Of course, if Bigfoot really does live in the woods of Cherokee County, it seems reasonable to assume that the person most likely to see him (or her) would be someone who spends a lot of time out in those woods.

That someone would be Oklahoma Game Warden Brady May. May, however, has never seen Bigfoot. But he has seen a couple of bears. In fact, May said 1990 was during a several-year-long period in which bear sightings were common in Cherokee County. Most of the bears in Oklahoma are in the southeastern part of the state, but young males are often run out of normal mating areas by older, larger males.

"It's not uncommon for our department to go to an area where there's a nuisance bear complaint, trap it, and release it," said May. "It wouldn't be uncommon for someone to see one around here."

Still, the 1990 Eldon Bigfoot sighting is (at least in Bigfoot parlance) a "Class A" event, and according to the BFRO Web site, "Several reports near this area [have been made] since the early '70s, also possible reports near Peggs, Okla., northwest of Tahlequah, Okla."

According to Garber, regardless of whether Bigfoot is a Cherokee County resident, the terrain is definitely conducive to such sightings. "One thing that always seems to be consistent in these sightings," he said, "is they always seem to be in wooded areas where an animal could move around undetected. You don't get many sightings in Arizona, or Enid [Okla.] for that matter; I mean, how many Bigfoot sightings do you hear of in Enid?"

HORIZON AIR, Seattle, WA - Feb. 2004

Mythtaken Identity

On the trail of Sasquatch | BY ERIC LUCAS

It was a perfect autumn afternoon in Northern California's Trinity Alps. The topaz light slanted along the creek valley, outlining the dark tree trunks across the way. I paused to lean against a rock for a moment's quiet reverie—and it barely registered at first when one of the "trees" separated itself from the overall forest, stood up and started rustling up the trail.

A huge black bear. No, too big for that. And bears don't stand upright to walk, let alone trot, as this animal was doing.

The creature cast a backward glance to see if I would follow, but I stood riveted. It was an utterly otherworldly moment, like a scene from a movie. In a few seconds the creature slipped into the shadows upstream, disappearing into deeper forest.

Sasquatch. Big as life.

OK, actually, this was a scene from a movie—the famous Roger Patterson film of Bigfoot, taken in October 1967, in the Bluff Creek drainage west of Redding. I was visiting the Willow Creek–China Flat Museum in Willow Creek, California, the world capital of Sasquatchery. At the museum, sober eyewitness accounts describe Sasquatch sightings. Plaster casts evince the footprints of a creature whose shoe size would dwarf Shaquille O'Neal's. Blurry photographs depict bulky shapes in mountain shadows. The Patterson film is one of the main attractions, and it shows what I've just described.

Pictures don't lie. Do they?

So much debate has masticated that very question over the years that there isn't a single word I can sensibly add. The topic got extra attention in late 2002 when Ray Wallace—the discoverer of the best-known footprints—died and his family said that Wallace had made the footprints himself, using a hand-carved alder plank. The family also said that, unbeknownst to Patterson, the "creature" in his famous film was actually Wallace's wife in a King Kong costume. This revelation upended the worldwide community of Sasquatch adherents—although many of them aver that Wallace's final hoax might be the claim that all the prior evidence was a sham.



Sasquatch believers embrace cryptozoology—a fancy name for what proponents call the scientific study of legendary animals and what critics call wishful thinking. It's a prerogative I'd like to exercise. Bigfoot may be wishful thinking, but what it symbolizes is quite concrete: The West is still wild enough to hold the idea of Sasquatch, if not the reality. And we humans have not begun to pin down all the shapes and flavors of life on earth.

Hitherto unproven or unknown life forms turn up regularly. One of the most famous is the colossal squid—reaching perhaps 40 feet in length—which was once considered as much a myth as Sasquatch. All or part of several such squid have been discovered

since 1925, and just last April, fishermen hauled up a rare virtually intact specimen, with fearsome barbs on its tentacles, off Antarctica. Two new species of Pacific whale have been identified over the past decade. And other animal species have unexpectedly materialized, such as the prehistoric coelacanth, discovered in an English fisherman's catch in 1938.

I've spent many months in the Western wilderness. I've hiked hundreds of valleys such as Bluff Creek. I want to believe that I've set foot where no human has stepped before, and I treasure that notion, because it means there is still room for discovery.

I appreciate Jane Goodall's famous remark that although she was bothered by the lack of physical evidence, she believes in Sasquatch because she wants to. That's doubtless why so many people also cherish the idea of Scotland's Nessie and British Columbia's Ogopogo. These animals represent the alluring mystery of nature.

If you were to set a pack on your back and hike overmountain from Willow Creek to the Canadian border—a thousand miles, roughly—you'd be in wilderness most of the trip. It's a rugged, dynamic, extravagant and unquelled landscape. When you step into it, you hear an enigmatic music that reaches your heart, not your brain. To me, this landscape is as a Lakota Sioux medicine man once described Sasquatch: "Both spirit and real being."

A believable myth is something our world needs. That's why I happily keep my eyes open when I'm in Sasquatch territory.

Eric Lucas is a Seattle writer.

LEGENDARY CREATURE

'Bigfoot' sightings reported

By ELOISE OGDEN
Regional Editor
eogden@ndweb.com

NEW TOWN - Paul Danks, administrator of the Natural Resources Department for the Three Affiliated Tribes, now has a Bigfoot-sighting map in his office.

On the map are marked the sites where people have reported seeing a Bigfoot-type creature in recent days on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

"There were several reports. They started last Sunday (Feb. 22). People south of New Town said they'd seen basically, I guess ... Bigfoot," Danks said Monday.

A resident of a mobile home park at New Town told Glenda Embry, who is in charge of tribal public affairs, about that Sunday incident.

"She said all the kids were playing outside in the trailer court and they were the ones that first saw it. They (the children) all started screaming so she came outside but by the time she got outside, they had scared it. She said it was walking away. She said it was huge. She said, 'I don't know how big it was but it just pushed through those trees

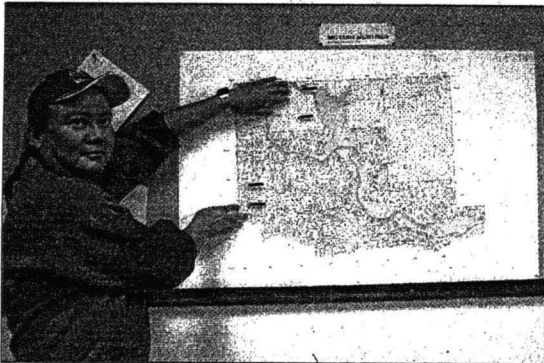


Photo courtesy of Three Affiliated Tribes

Clifton Whitman, director of the Three Affiliated Tribes' Homeland Security Department, indicates Tuesday, of recent Bigfoot sightings in the area. The map is in the tribal Natural Resources office.

like you're going through bushes' and it was moving fast." The resident said she was still shaken days after the incident occurred, Embry said.

There was also another sighting that day farther south of New Town.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, there was another sighting, although unconfirmed, in the Mandaree area.

said. The two men left the area and got several other people to return to the area to look for the creature, but they were not successful in their search. They said its footprints showed it had "almost 5-foot strides."

The Natural Resources office investigated the incident in the Lost Bridge area and Dennis Fox Jr., of the tribes' Independence Program, took pictures of tracks there which the Natural Resources office has. But officials said the snow had melted and there could be a lot of different explanations for the tracks found.

However, one Fort Berthold Reservation resident definitely doesn't think there's anything unusual about the recent reports of Bigfoot sightings.

Phyllis Lincoln remembers when she and her three sisters saw such a creature about 30 years ago near Twin Buttes. Lincoln was 17 at the time.

"I can remember it like it was yesterday. It was scary," Lincoln said.

Lincoln, who lives at Mandaree, works for the Three Affiliated Tribes in New Town. She was raised at Twin Buttes, about 100 miles south of New Town.

Lincoln said that she and her three sisters, Michaela, the oldest, Corrine and Janice, their youngest sister who was 13 at the time, were on their way home to Twin Buttes late on a summer night after going to a movie in Halliday, about 15 miles away.

"I don't remember the movie, but I know what I seen," Lincoln said, relating the incident this week.

Lincoln said it was "not really, really dark" that night. On the way home she said one of her sisters wanted to stop along the road for a "restroom stop," but the others sisters wanted her to wait until they got home.

"We were driving my dad's old International pickup - it was the standard shift. I was in the middle shifting. I was teaching

the second to the oldest one, Michaela, how to drive," Lincoln said. "We were kind of talking and laughing, and we pulled to the side of the road."

She said they pulled over on the road at a spot below the twin buttes where there's a coulee or ravine.

"When we pulled over to the side of the road, the thing sat up. And when it sat up, (then) it stood up. It was really tall," Lincoln said. She said the creature must have been resting or lying in the ditch.

"We thought, 'what the heck was that?' We turned to look and when it stood up it was like, I would say, about 8 feet tall. It didn't look at us or anything, but I remember the color of it was like kind of a mouse-colored... grayish. It had real long hair."

"It took one, two, three steps and it cleared a fence, like the fence was about 3-feet high to it," Lincoln said.

"We were all screaming: 'what is that? what is that?' and getting excited," Lincoln recalled.

"The girls locked the doors and I told my sister, 'Don't kill the engine whatever you do, just ease up on the clutch and put your foot on the foot feed and give it some gas.' And we went in first all the way home. My dad wasn't too happy about that," Lincoln said.

"We were all excited when we ran in the house, telling our parents," she said.

Later, Lincoln said their grandfather, the late Alfred Morsette Sr., told them these creatures have been around for years but they have never hurt anyone. "Once our grandpa said they've been around for years. We thought it's just one of those things," she said.

"This happened back maybe '69 or '70," Lincoln said. "When they said they've had sightings again, I thought, 'Well, I've seen it before and I know it's true, they're out there.'"

I tend to believe them

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, two area men reported they were driving on N.D. Highway 22 near the Lost Bridge when they came upon a Bigfoot-type creature walking on the road. The Lost Bridge is southwest of Mandaree.

They reported it went into the ditch where it continued to walk. Another vehicle on the road also stopped but quickly left, they

because I've seen things like that," she said. "I do believe they were around a few years back, too."

According to files of The Minot Daily News, in October 1979, two Dunn County men reported seeing an ape, a Bigfoot, when they were driving a mile south of Werner, a community a few miles west of Halliday. It was standing on the road, the men said. A Halliday area man also claimed he saw a Bigfoot two weeks earlier north of Halliday.

In 1977, numerous sightings of a Bigfoot-type creature caused a stir in the Little Eagle and McLaughlin areas in South Dakota, catching the attention of media from all over. Reports said a huge hairy thing - some reports said more than one - was roaming the countryside along the Cannonball River that stretches from the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota into north-central South Dakota. Within about 2 1/2 months, at least 28 sightings were reported.

The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, which says it is a scientific organization probing the Bigfoot/Sasquatch mystery, lists a Ward County sighting on its Web site. A hunter reported that in April 1962 he and another hunter who had been out rabbit hunting were stalked by "a great ape" just outside a mobile home park near Minot. When the creature began to move in their direction, he said they ran as fast as they could and didn't look back.

The Bigfoot organization's Web site reports a few sightings of Bigfoot in every state around North Dakota - Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota.

People who hear about the recent sightings in western North Dakota have varying beliefs about it, as well as not believing it. Some tribal members will also say they believe it could be a type of warning. Some also feel it is a spiritual being, they said.

TEAM MAKES STRIDES IN SEARCH FOR BIGFOOT

A researcher tells of work done over four summers in a forest south of the border

By GREG BOLT
The Register-Guard

They've run through camp, howled across canyons and once even ran off with all the oatmeal.

J. Richard Greenwell isn't saying it was Bigfoot that made more than three dozen nocturnal visits to his wilderness camps, but he isn't saying that it wasn't. As a scientist, he's just testing a hypothesis, but he said the data so far indicate that, if nothing else, something is out there.

"unverified primate species" in the Pacific Northwest. In it, he detailed the results of work he and several colleagues did over four summers, spending a total of 60 days in the remote Siskiyou Wilderness in the Six Rivers National Forest just south of the Oregon border.

Call it a Bigfoot, Sasquatch or Yeti, but a hairy, apelike creature tall enough to make a basketball coach cry has been a part of Northwest legend almost as long as Homo sapiens have been here. What's been lacking is proof - rock-solid and incontrovertible evidence that we're not the only two-legged mammals roaming this corner of American geography.

Greenwell is a cryptozoologist and secretary of the Tucson-based International Society of Cryptozoology, a group that searches for animals that have been described but not documented or are believed to be extinct but might not be. He's also a research associate in mammalogy at the International Wildlife Museum, and he said he started his Sasquatch research in 1997 with the aim of collecting evidence that settles, one way or another, the question of the creature's existence.

He and his team toted 500 pounds of equipment into deep, trailless valleys 40 miles from the nearest human outpost. Their tools included automatic cameras, motion detectors, sound recorders and a powerful speaker system.

They set up the speakers each day at twilight, when they would broadcast recorded gorilla vocalizations as well as the howls of suspected Bigfoots that others had captured on tape. Then they'd wait.

Most of the time, they didn't have to wait long. On average, they had an event every 1.6 days, things they categorized as rock throwing, vegetation smashing, camp visitations, vocalizations and the like.

On several occasions, Greenwell said, something on two feet tromped quickly through camp, brushing against tents and occasionally banging one of their packs against a tree and then running off - too quickly for anyone to spring from his tent and get a look at it. Once, something opened the food bag and took all of their packets of instant oatmeal before dashing away and leaving the rest of the food behind.

Twice, the creature left footprints measuring 16 inches long, which were photographed and documented. But they never found any hairs. Or the oatmeal packages.

But they did hear ... something. On 10 occasions over the four summers, team members heard unusual sounds, including what Greenwell described as "tremendous, bellowing howls" that lasted 12 to 14 sec-

"We don't deal in beliefs or trying to prove something," Greenwell said Friday after presenting a paper on his research. "We're testing a hypothesis, and so far the hypothesis is supported."

Greenwell's well-attended talk was one of dozens being delivered at this week's Northwest Anthropological Conference at the Valley River Inn. The three-day event, jointly sponsored by the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History and the Bureau of Land Management, has drawn scientists from all over the region to present some of their latest research findings.

Greenwell packed a conference room for his report on evidence of an

onds and usually were repeated a second time.

"It was quite frightening at first," he said. "We don't know of any sort of North American mammal that can produce such vocalizations."

Sometimes they heard other sounds, strange ones that almost seemed like two creatures "talking" back and forth. Greenwell described it as a hollow, bamboo-on-wood "tok," followed by a glottal sound and then a higher-pitched "ping," going back and forth at ground level.

Greenwell has spent plenty of time doing field research in the United States, China, the Congo and other remote spots around the world, and he's not unfamiliar with nighttime noises in the wilderness. They heard the usual ones in the Siskiyou, but these others were harder to explain. "The vocalizations are very different and distinctive," he said.

Other bits of evidence included two possible beds made of fir boughs that had been broken off when they were still green, something that would have taken great strength. They were piled in layers with supporting cross pieces at the bottom. There was no sign people had ever been in the area.

"Bears do break branches," Greenwell said. "But bears do not carry branches some distance and pile them up."

Greenwell is careful not to say he has found proof of Bigfoot's existence or even that he necessarily is convinced it exists. And he acknowledges that proof is hard to come by.

They never caught a glimpse of one, despite all the noises, the 12 times something visited a camp, the automatic cameras. The weather was always bad, the sound equipment put away or the light wrong when there was a chance to nail down the decisive bit of evidence.

"If it was easy to prove, it would have been proven already," he said.

For one thing, when they outfitted the expedition they didn't realize the creatures were so nocturnal, so they didn't buy good night-vision cameras. What Greenwell wants to do next is get funding for some expensive, motion-activated, night-vision video equipment and go out again.

Ultimately, he said, they'll find evidence of whatever is out there, whether it's people, a Sasquatch or something else.

"Whatever these entities are, we'll find them," he said. "And if it's Sasquatch, that will validate the hypothesis."